## SITES AND THERMODYNAMIC QUANTITIES ASSOCIATED WITH PROTON AND METAL ION INTERACTION WITH RIBONUCLEIC ACID, DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID, AND THEIR CONSTITUENT BASES, NUCLEOSIDES, AND NUCLEOTIDES

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### *Con tents*



### *1. Introduction, Scope, and Nomenclature*

Among the outstanding achievements of this century has been the establishment of the structures of DNA and RNA and of the primary role of nucleic acids and their derivatives as hereditary determinants in biological reproduction and growth. In the course of this work, many questions have arisen concerning the detailed structure and reactions of ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid, and their constituent base, sugar, and phosphate units. Central to the answering of these questions is a knowledge of the sites and thermodynamic quantities associated with the interaction of protons and metal ions with these substances, and a considerable body of literature now exists on the subject. In addition to identifying sites of complexation and/or determining the thermodynamic quantities, many investigators have provided interesting accounts of how complexation affects the chemical reactivities of these substances. A large number of potentially reactive sites are present in nucleic acids, and this undoubtedly accounts for the fact that different workers have often assigned a given ionization or complexation step to different sites on the same species. This uncertainty in the assignment of the sites of proton and metal ion attachment to these species is often compounded by the numerous experimental conditions *(Le.,* ionic strength, presence of competing ions such as Na+, **K+,** etc.) under which the various studies have been performed.

This review covers the literature through August 1970. Sections **I1** and **I11** contain information regarding the sites of interaction of protons and metal ions, respectively, with the heterocyclic bases adenine, guanine, hypoxanthine, xanthine, cytosine, uracil, and thymine; their nucleosides and nucleotides; and DNA and RNA. A summary of the most probable sites of interaction is included at the end of each section. A table containing the available thermodynamic data is included in section **IV.** All reactions and data throughout the text and in the several tables are, unless otherwise specified, valid in aqueous (or **D**<sub>2</sub>O) solution.

In an excellent review, Phillips<sup>1</sup> has surveyed the literature dealing with proton and metal ion interaction with adenosine and the adenine nucleotides and has discussed the principal techniques and types of instrumentation that have been used

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*<sup>(1)</sup>* R. Phillips, *Chem. Rev., 66,* **501 (1966).** 





#### **Figure 1.**

in these studies. The information and data given in the review by Phillips will not be repeated here except as required for clarity and continuity, and the reader is referred to it for further information.

Interactions of the purine-purine, purine-pyrimidine, and pyrimidine-pyrimidine base-pairing and base-stacking types will not be considered here. Evidence is mounting, however, that these interactions are often appreciable and in certain cases base pairing and base stacking would be expected to further complicate the analysis and interpretation of the thermodynamic and site data. Unfortunately, most authors have not considered these reactions in interpreting their data.

The structure and numbering systems for the purine and pyrimidine bases, their respective nucleosides, the phosphate chain, ribose, and deoxyribose are given in Figure 1. The abbreviations used for the nucleotides are RMP, RDP, and RTP for the mono-, di-, and triphosphates where R is any one of the purine or pyrimidine bases in Figure **1.** Deoxy derivatives are so designated or, in the case of abbreviations, a small d preceeds the abbreviation. Deoxyribonucleic acid and ribonucleic acid are abbreviated DNA and RNA, respectively. The nomenclature used generally follows the 1970 recommendations of the IUPAC-IUB Commission on Biochemical Nomenclature.<sup>2</sup>

### */I. Sites* **of** *Proton Ionization*

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The existence of several basic sites for the nucleosides, nucleotides, and their constituent base, sugar, and phosphate units has frequently led to conflicting literature statements regarding proton ionization sites for these substances. Even in the relatively simple molecule adenine, there are five possible sites for the two observed ionizations from the protonated species,  $viz_i$ ,  $N_1$ ,  $N_3$ ,  $N_7$ ,  $N_8$ , and  $C_6NH_2$ . For the other nucleic acid bases and their respective nucleosides and nucleotides, the possible sites of protonation or ionization are alsd numerous. A considerable amount of work has been done during the past decade in identifying the sites of proton ionization from these substances and several are now well established. The various investigations carried out concerning the sites of proton ionization will now be presented with a summary of the most probable sites being given in section D.

#### **B. PURINE BASES AND DERIVATIVES**

Examination of the purine and purine nucleoside structures in Figure 1 reveals two sites on the imidazole  $(N_7H^{n+}$  and  $N_9H$ , when present) and one on the ribose moieties (in the nucleosides) whose acidic behavior might be expected to be similar from compound to compound. In contrast, the pyrimidine moieties of these four purines have markedly different substituents, and neighboring groups on these rings might be expected to markedly influence both the site and extent of proton ionization. The available spectroscopic and thermodynamic data generally support these observations although fewer data are available for identification of sites for hypoxanthine and xanthine and their nucleosides than for adenine and guanine and their nucleosides.

#### *1. Adenine, Adenosine, and Adenosine Nucleotides*

Early workers<sup> $3-6$ </sup> found pK values of 3.5-4.2 to be associated with proton ionization from the protonated forms of adenine, adenosine, AMP, ADP, ATP, and poly(A). By analogy with aniline (protonated aniline,  $pK = 4.6$ ),<sup>7</sup> it was stated by them and later workers,<sup>8,9</sup> that ionization is from the  $C_6NH_3^+$ group. A spectrophotometric study<sup>6</sup> of poly(A) revealed

(4) H. F. W. Taylor, *J.* Chem. *Soc.,* 765 (1948).

<sup>(2)</sup> *Biochemistry,* 9,4022 (1970).

<sup>(3)</sup> P. A. Levene and H. S. Simms, *J. Biol.* Chem., **65,** 519 (1925).

*<sup>(5)</sup>* R. A. Alberty, R. M. Smith, and R. M. Bock, *J. Biol.* Chem., 193, 425 (1951).

<sup>(6)</sup> R. F. Beers and R. F. Steiner, *Narure (London),* 179, 1076 (1957).

<sup>(7)</sup> D. L. Levi, W. S. McEwan, and J. H. Wolfenden, *J.* Chem. **Soc.,** 760 (1949).

<sup>(8)</sup> G. E. Cheney, H. Freiser, and Q. Fernando, *J. Amer.* Chem. **Soc.,** 81,2611 (1959).

<sup>(9)</sup> *S.* Lewin and N. W. Tann, *J.* Chem. **Soc.,** 1466 (1962).

extensive binding of  $H^+$  between pH 6 and 4 which was attributed to binding at the primary amino groups of the adenine bases. This conclusion was based on the additional observation that the binding of **H+** was markedly reduced for formalin-treated **AMP** with the assumption being made that the action of the formalin was limited to the 6-amino group. The arguments for protonation on  $N_1H^+$  and  $C_6NH_3^+$  have been summarized by Lewin<sup>10</sup> who concludes that  $C_6NH_2$  is the protonation site. This conclusion is based on the observation from spectrophotometric and pH variation data that formaldehyde reacts with the amino group of adenine, but is unreactive toward the  $N_1H^+$  group of purine. Although the study leaves no question concerning the site of formaldehyde reaction, the possibility remains that the observed changes in solution pH could result from proton release from  $N_1H^+$ rather than  $C_6NH_3^+$ . Molecular orbital calculations by Pullman, Pullman, and Berthier<sup>11</sup> indicate that the  $C_6NH_2$ group in adenine has the greatest electron density of any of the nitrogen atoms in the molecule. However, Pullman<sup>12</sup> later concluded that the most basic site is not necessarily determined by the highest electron density, but rather by the conditions in the transition state. This conclusion led him to state that the  $N_1$  position is the most likely site of protonation in adenine. An X-ray crystallographic study of adenine hydrochloride showed the hydrogen atom to be bound to the  $N_1$  position in the crystalline state.<sup>13</sup> In support of ionization from  $N_1H^+$ , Zubay<sup>14</sup> pointed out that hydrogen bond breakage in DNA by acid cannot be explained by protonation of the amino group since this protonation would strengthen, not weaken, the hydrogen bond. Recent calorimetric work also provides evidence that proton ionization from protonated adenine and adenosine is from the  $N_1H^+$  group. A characteristic enthalpy change has been found in many cases to accompany proton ionization from a particular donor atom.15-20 In the present case, the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values of 4.81 and 3.91 kcal/mol found<sup>21</sup> for proton dissociation from adenine and adenosine, respectively, resemble more closely the smaller heats found for proton dissociation from protonated compounds where the site of ionization is known to be a nitrogen of the  $N<sub>1</sub>H<sup>+</sup>$  type  $(e.g., the protonated forms of cytosine, 5.14, <sup>20</sup> and pyridine,$  $4.80<sup>22</sup>$ ) than they do the larger heats found for proton dissociation from protonated amino groups of related compounds *(e.g.,* aniline,' 7.28 kcal/mol). The assignment of the proton ionization site to the  $N_1H^+$  group in adenosine is further supported by proton nmr data.<sup>23</sup> Although additional work appears warranted to establish unambiguously the ionization

- (11) **A.** Pullman, B. Pullman, and G. Berthier, *C. R. Acad. Sci.,* **243,** *380*   $(1956)$ .
- (12) B. Pullman, *J. Chem. SOC.,* 1621 (1959).
- (13) W. Cochran, *Acta Crj~stallogr.,* 4, 81 (1951).
- (14) G. Zubay, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* 28, 644 (1958).
- (15) J. J. Christensen and R. M. Izatt, *J. Phys. Chem.,* 66, 1030 (1962).
- (16) J. J. Christensen J. L. Oscarson, and R. M. Izatt, *J. Amr. Chem. Soc.,* **90,** 5949 (1968):
- (17) J. J. Christensen, R. M. Izatt, and L. D. Hansen, *ibid.,* 89, 213 (1967).
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- (19) R. M. Izatt, J. H. Rytting, L. D. Hansen, and J. J. Christensen, *J. Amer. Chem. SOC.,* 88, 2641 (1966).
- (20) **J.** J. Christensen, **J.** H. Rytting, and R. M. Izatt, *J. Chem. SOC. B,*  1643 (1970).
- (21) J. J. Christensen, J. H. Rytting, and R. M. Izatt, *Biochemistry,* **9,** 4907 (1970).
- (22) L. Sacconi, P. Paoletti, and M. Ciarnpolini, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,*  82, 3831 (1960).
- (23) C. D. Jardetzky and 0. Jardetzky, *ibid.,* 82, 222 (1960).

site, it is concluded that the  $N_1H^+$  group is the site of proton ionization ( $pK \sim 4$ ) in adenine and adenosine and presumably in the ribonucleotides as well. Support for this conclusion is also found in metal binding studies. For example, proton nmr studies of  $Cu^{2+}-$ adenosine and  $Cu^{2+}-$ adenosine nucleotide interaction ((CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO) clearly show that Cu<sup>2+</sup> binds to  $N_1$  and/ or  $N_7$ , but not to the  $C_6NH_2$  group.<sup>24</sup> Also, it has been pointed out in connection with protonation of guanine and its 9 substituted derivatives that the basicity of heterocyclic amines is very different from that of aromatic amines and amino acids.<sup>25</sup>

There is general agreement that proton ionization from neutral adenine ( $pK \sim 10$ ) is from the N<sub>9</sub>H group.<sup>10</sup> As will be pointed out in section II.A.3, calorimetric results indicate a common ionization site for adenine, hypoxanthine, and xanthine which we take to be the NgH group.

Substitution of a ribose group on the 9 position of adenine to form adenosine creates additional possible sites for proton ionization through the ribose hydroxyl groups. No evidence was found in a pH titration study<sup>26</sup> for proton ionization from the ribose group of adenosine; however, potentiometric<sup>27</sup> and calorimetric titration<sup>19, 28</sup> results both indicate dissociation of a proton in very basic solution. The site of this ionization has been shown to be the ribose moiety of adenosine, and *both*  the **2'-** and 3'-OH groups were found to be necessary for the dissociation.<sup>28</sup> The sites for proton ionization from the phosphate chain of the adenine nucleotides have been discussed.

#### *2. Guanine, Guanosine, and Guanosine Nucleotides*

Shapiro<sup>25</sup> in a review of the chemistry of guanine and its derivatives concludes that guanine exists in a mixture of the tautomeric forms **18** and **3,** while guanosine and the several



nucleotides contain the substituent on the 9 position of guanine. He further points out that evidence exists for protonation of guanine on both the  $N_7$  and  $N_9$  positions; however, in the case of 9-substituted guanine derivatives the evidence strongly suggests  $N_7$  as the protonation site. This evidence includes X-ray diffraction studies of guanine hydrochloride, **<sup>29</sup>** infrared studies of the guanosine cation, ${}^{30}$  the nmr spectrum of guanosine triphosphate in acidic  $D_2O$ ,<sup>23</sup> and a comparison of the ultraviolet spectra of the cations of 7,9-dimethyl- and 1,7,9-trimethylguanine with those of 9-methylguanine and 1,9-dimethylguanine.<sup>31</sup> Shapiro<sup>25</sup> summarizes additional evidence for protonation on  $N_7$  and points out that earlier studies

- (24) N. **A.** Berger and G. L. Eichhorn, *Biochemistry,* **10,** 1847 (1971).
- (25) R. Shapiro, *Progr. Nucleic Acid Res.,* 8, 73 (1968).
- (26) T. R. Harkins and H. Freiser, *J. Amer. Chem. SOC.,* 80, 1132
- $(1958)$ .
- (27) P. **A.** Levene, H. **S.** Simms, and L. W. Bass, *J. Biol. Chem.,* **70,** 243 (1926).
- (28) R. M. Izatt, L. D. Hansen, J. H. Rytting, and J. J. Christensen, *J. Amer. Chem. SOC.,* 87, 2760 (1965).
- (29) J. Iball and H. R. Wilson, *Proc. Roy.* Soc., *Ser. A,* **288,** 418 (1965). (30) H. T. Miles, F. B. Howard, and J. Frazier, *Science,* **142,** 1458
- (1963).
- (31) W. Pfleiderer, *JustusLiebigs Ann. Chem.,* 647, 167 (1961).

<sup>(10)</sup> **S.** Lewin, *J. Chem. SOC.,* 792 (1964).

which cited the  $C_2NH_2$  group as the site of protonation by analogy with protonated aromatic amines erred in not considering the considerdble difference between benzenoid and heterocyclic amines.

Ultraviolet and infrared studies support the proposition that ionization from uncharged guanine derivatives is from the N<sub>1</sub>H group<sup>25</sup> with 19 being the principal resonance structure of the anion.



Proton ionization from the ribose group of guanosine has been demonstrated<sup>21</sup> although the site has not been determined.

#### **3.** *Hypoxanthine, Inosine, Xanthine, and Xanthosine*

Ionization from protonated hypoxanthine is taken to be from the  $N<sub>7</sub>H<sup>+</sup>$  group because of its structural similarity to protonated guanosine where ionization is known from nmr and spectroscopic data to be from the N<sub>7</sub>H<sup>+</sup> group. The similarity of the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values for the pK  $\sim$  2 ionization from the protonated forms of guanosine and hypoxanthine as seen in Table IA suggests that ionization is from the same site in these substances. Furthermore, the  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  values are approximately equal, leading to nearly identical  $pK$  values for the two species.

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Selected pK,  $\Delta H^{\circ}$ , and  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  Values<sup>21</sup> at 25° for the Indicated Reaction Types



As indicated earlier the  $N_1H^+$  (in adenine and adenosine) and  $N_1H$  (in guanine and guanosine) groups have been established as the sites of proton ionization from the pyrimidine moiety in the indicated species. In the case of ionization from the neutral forms of hypoxanthine and xanthine and their nucleosides there are additional possible ionization sites and fewer data available to indicate the site of ionization from the pyrimidine ring. Potentiometric titration data led to the assignment of the 6-hydroxyl group (enol form) as the site of proton ionization in the cases of the neutral forms of hypoxanthine **(5)**<sup>32</sup> (pK  $\sim$  9), xanthine **(7)**<sup>33</sup> (pK  $\sim$  7.5), and xanthosine  $(8)^{32}$  (pK  $\sim$  6). Comparison of pK values derived from spectrophotometric data for xanthine and selected methyl derivatives of xanthine led to the assignment of ionization from neutral xanthine  $(20)$  to the N<sub>3</sub>H group although there is disagreement on whether the monoanion has structure **2134** or **23.35** In this



connection, an X-ray crystallographic study of sodium xanthate shows that the hydrogen atom is not attached to  $N_3$ in crystalline xanthine.<sup>36</sup> In contrast to ionization from the imidazole moiety, a considerable change in the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values (kcal/mol) occurs from compound to compound for ionization from the pyrimidine moiety both in the base and the nucleoside series as is seen in Table IB.<sup>21</sup> This change in the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values in these series is taken to indicate the probable involvement of neighboring groups in the ionization process probably through the formation of microspecies. Simultaneous ionization of protons from more than one site in neutral xanthine could account for the discrepancies in the observed sites for proton ionization from this molecule.

Two schemes for ionization from the imidazole moiety of xanthine have been proposed based on comparison of ultraviolet absorption spectra and  $pK$  values for the monoanion of xanthine and a series of its methylated derivatives.<sup>34, 35</sup> These schemes postulate that ionization from **21** and **23** results in the formation of 22<sup>34</sup> and 24,<sup>35</sup> respectively. The similar  $\Delta H^{\circ}$ data Table IC indicate that the ionizations from neutral

**<sup>(32)</sup> A.** Albert, *Biochem. J.,* **54, 646 (1953).** 

**<sup>(33)</sup> A. G.** Ogston, *J. Chem. Soc.,* **1376 (1935).** 

<sup>(34)</sup> L. F. Cavalieri, J. J. Fox, A. Stone, and N. Chang. *J. Amer. Chem.*<br>*Soc.*, 76, 1119 (1954).<br>(35) W. Pfieiderer and G. Nübel, *Justus Liebigs Ann. Chem.*, 647, 155<br>(1961).

**<sup>(36)</sup>** H. Mizuno, T. Fujiwara, and K. Tomita, *Bull. Chem. SOC. Jup., 42,* **3099 (1969).** 

adenine and from the anions of hypoxanthine and xanthine are from similar nitrogen atoms; however, the calorimetric data do not eliminate ionization from either  $N_7$  or  $N_8$ . The data in Table IC also show that the much larger  $pK$  values for this ionization in the cases of hypoxanthine and xanthine compared to adenine are a result of the larger negative  $\Delta S^{\circ}$ values which, in turn, reflect the different charge types involved in the reaction in these cases.

Two ionization steps have been reported for xanthosine.<sup>34</sup> Since the spectra for 1,7-dimethylxanthine and xanthosine are similar, the first ionization was attributed to the  $N_3H$  group. Calorimetric data confirm a second ionization from xanthosine as well as inosine.<sup>21</sup> By analogy with other nucleosides the second ionization from these substances would be expected to occur from the sugar moiety.

### C. PYRIMlDINE BASES AND DERIVATIVES

### 1. *Cytosine and Cytidine*

Spectrophotometric evidence is reported<sup>37</sup> for proton dissociation from cationic cytosine **(9)** and its derivatives  $(H_3L^{2+})$  in 1-12 *M* HCl. Although not positively identified, the site for this dissociation is most likely the  $C_4NH_3^+$  group since there is good evidence that the other possible site,  $N_3H^+$ , is associated with ionization from the monocation.

The site of proton ionization from the monocation of cytosine and cytidine has been subject to controversy in much the same manner as have the sites for adenine and guanine and their nucleosides. Most early workers either without supporting evidence or based on the similarity of the pK values<br>to those of protonated aromatic amines assigned the pK  $\sim$  4 ionization from the protonated forms of cytosine, 38, 39 cytidine,<sup>38</sup> and their nucleotides<sup>40</sup> to the protonated  $C_4NH_3^+$ group.

In a potentiometric and spectrophotometric study of the reaction of formaldehyde with cytosine in the acid pH range, a pH depression was found which was considered incompatible with a displacement reaction involving the ionization of a ternary positively charged nitrogen such as  $N_3H^+$  because such a reaction should result in pH elevation.41 This result led Lewin and Humphreys<sup>41</sup> to the conclusion that under their experimental conditions the main site of proton ionization is from the  $C_4NH_3$ <sup>+</sup> rather than from the N<sub>3</sub>H<sup>+</sup> group.

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Jardetzky and coworkers<sup>23,42</sup> report nmr data valid in aqueous and trifluoroacetic acid solutions showing proton ionization from protonated cytosine to be from the  $N<sub>3</sub>H<sup>+</sup>$  group. This finding has been independently supported by others in aqueous and  $(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO$  solutions using nuclear magnetic resonance<sup>43, 44</sup> and absorption<sup>45, 46</sup> spectroscopy. A calorimetric study<sup>20</sup> favors  $N_3$  protonation. Using reasoning

similar to that presented earlier for adenine, the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values (kcal/mol) of 5.14 (cytosine) and 5.11 (cytidine) indicate that proton ionization from a ring nitrogen is more likely than from the  $C_4NH_3$ <sup>+</sup> group. It is possible, however, that a tautomeric equilibrium involving microspecies exists which could account for the slightly higher  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  value for cytosine compared with those fdr adenine, adenosine, and cytidine. Such a tautomeric equilibrium could also account for the findings of Lewin and Humphreys<sup>41</sup> if the formaldehyde reaction shifted the equilibrium toward the amino protonation reaction. It is of interest that proton nmr studies of the Cu<sup>2+</sup>cytidine system clearly eliminate the  $C_4NH_2$  group as a binding site toward Cu<sup>2+</sup>.<sup>47</sup> Although additional experimental work appears desirable, we assign ionization from protonated cytosine and cytidine to the  $N_3H^+$  group.

The second ionization ( $pK \sim 12$ ) from cytosine has been assigned<sup>45</sup> to the N<sub>1</sub>HC<sub>2</sub>O groupings. Lewin and Humphreys<sup>41</sup> suggest that the proton may ionize from either a hydroxyl or an acidic imino group. Shugar and Fox<sup>48</sup> favor a hydroxyl ionization. The second ionization from cytidine has been assigned to the ribose moiety.<sup>88, 49,50</sup>

#### *2. Uracil, Uridine, Thymine, and Thymidine*

Proton ionization from uracil, thymine, and their respective ribosyl nucleosides in the strongly acid region ( $pK < 0.5$ ) has been reported based on spectrophotometric data.<sup>87,51</sup> This ionization is apparently from a cationic species in these cases; however, no definitive information concerning ionization sites or  $pK$  values is available.

The proton ionization site with  $pK \sim 9.6$  in uracil, uridine, thymine, and thymidine has had various assignments. From an ultraviolet spectral study of thymine, uracil, and several substituted uracils, it was concluded that ionization from neutral uracil and thymine (pK  $\sim$  9.6) was from the 2-hydroxyl group, and ionization from the uracil and thymine anions  $(pK \sim 13)$  was from the 4-hydroxyl group. <sup>48</sup> However, also on the basis of ultraviolet measurements in aqueous solution, it is stated that uracil exists primarily in the diketo form, whereas in alkaline solutions it exists as an approximately  $1:1$  mixture of the two possible deprotonated forms.<sup>52</sup> Two overlapping absorption bands with  $\lambda_{\text{max}}$  260 and 284 nm have been reported for proton ionization from neutral uracil with the conclusion that protons ionize simultaneously from both the  $N_1H$  and  $N_3H$  groups.<sup>58</sup> Microspecies formation is probable in these systems, and further experimental work is indicated to resolve the question of ionization sites. In the case of the nucleosides calorimetric results are consistent with the first proton ionizing from the  $N_3$  position and the second proton dissociating from the sugar group. **2o** Uridine has also been shown in an infrared study to exist predominately in the diketo form.<sup>54</sup> However, with uridine and thymidine the

(52) K. Nakanishi, N. Suzuki, and F. Yamazaki, *Bull.* Chem. Soc. *Jap., 34,* 53 (1961).

<sup>(37)</sup> I. Wempen, R. Duschinsky, L. Kaplan, and J. J. Fox, *J.* Amer. *Chem.* Soc., 83, 4755 (1961).

<sup>(38)</sup> J. J. Fox, D. Van Praag, I. Wempen I. L. Doerr, L. Cheong J. E. Knoll, M. L. Eidinoff, A. Bendich, and'G. B. Brown, *ibid.,* 81, 178 (1959).

<sup>(39)</sup> D. 0. Jordan, "The Chemistry of Nucleic Acids," Butterworths, Washington, D. C., 1960, Chapter 7.

<sup>(40)</sup> L. F. Cavalieri, *J. Amer. Chem.* Soc., 75, 5268 (1953).

<sup>(41)</sup> **S.** Lewin and D. *A.* Humphreys, *J. Chem. Soc. B,* 210 (1966).

<sup>(42)</sup> O. Jardetzky, P. Pappas, and N. G. Wade, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.*, **85,** 16(1963).

<sup>(43)</sup> H. T. Miles, R. B. Bradley, and E. D. Becker, *Science,* 142, 1569 (1963).

<sup>(44)</sup> A. R. Katritzky and A. J. Waring, *J. Chem. Soc.,* 3046 (1963).

<sup>(45)</sup> T. Ueda and J. J. Fox, *J. Amer. Chem.* Soc., 85, 4024 (1963).

<sup>(46)</sup> P. Brookes and P. D. Lawley, *J. Chem.* Soc., 1348 (1962).

<sup>(47)</sup> N. **A.** Berger and G. L. Eichhorn, *Biochemistry,* 10, 1857 (1971).

<sup>(48)</sup> D. Shugar and J. J. *Fox, Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* 9, 199 (1952).

<sup>(49)</sup> J. J. Christensen, **J.** H. Rytting, and R. M. Izatt, *J. Phys. Chem.,* 71, 2700 (1967).

<sup>(50)</sup> J. J. Fox, L. F. Cavalieri, and N. Chang, *J. Amer. Chem.* Soc., 75, 4315 (1953).

<sup>(51)</sup> **W.** E. Cohn in "The Nucleic Acids," Vol. I, E. Chargaff and J. N. Davidson, Ed., Academic Press, New York, N. Y., 1955, p 217.

<sup>(53)</sup> B. T. Suchorukow, V. **I.** Poltew, and L. Blumenfeld, *Abh. Deut. Akad. Wiss. Berlin, Kl. Med.,* 381 (1964).

<sup>(54)</sup> H. T. Miles, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* 22, 247 **(1956).** 

ionization is from the  $N_3-C_4-O$  group inasmuch as the  $N_1$ position is blocked by the sugar moiety.

### **D. SUMMARY OF PROBABLE PROTON IONIZATION SITES**

The probable sites of proton ionization from the protonated purines and pyrimidines and their nucelosides are summarized in Table 11.

#### *Table I1*

Most Probable Sites of **Proton** Ionization from Cation, Neutral, **or** Anion Forms of Compounds as Indicated"

Compound	Cation	Neutral	Anion				
Purine and Purine Nucleosides							
Adenine	N,	.					
Adenosine	N,	Ribose: $2'$ -, $3'$ -OH					
Guanine	$(N_7)$	$(N_i)$	$(N_2)$				
Guanosine	N <sub>7</sub>	$N_1C_6O$	Ribose				
Hypoxanthine	N <sub>7</sub>	$N_1/C_6O$	$N_9/N_7$				
Inosine	$(N_7)$	$N_1/C_6O$	Ribose				
Xanthine	$(N_7)$	$N_1/N_3$ , $C_6O/C_2O$	$N_{9}/N_{7}$				
Xanthosine	$(N_7)$	$N_1/C_6O/C_2O$	Ribose				
Pyrimidines and Pyrimidine Nucleosides							
Cytosine	$N_{3}$	$N_1/C_2O$					
Cytidine	$N_{3}$	Ribose	$\cdots$				
Uracil	h	$N_3C_4O/N_1C_2O$	$N_3C_4O/N_1C_2O$				
Uridine	b	$N_3C_4O$	Ribose				
Thymine	h	$N_3C_4O/N_1C_2O$	$N_2C_4O/N_1C_2O$				
Thymidine	b	$N_3C_4O$	Deoxyribose				

<sup>a</sup> When placed in parentheses, the site is predicted by analogy to known sites. When two sites are given, the site is either uncertain or microspecies are probable (see text). Also, when possible, the negative charge will reside on 0 rather than N. \*Evidence for proton ionization from a cationic species has been reported; see text.

### *111. Sites* **of** *Metal /on Coordination*

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

The reactions of purine and pyrimidine bases, nucleosides, nucleotides, and polynucleotides with metal ions have been studied by many workers. In the past, according to their general affinity for metal ions, these ligands have been divided into two groups—those which contain phosphate moieties and those which do not. Similarly, according to their affinity for ribonucleotides, metal ions were considered to fall into three classes. Those which interact exclusively (or nearly so) with the base portion, those which interact with both base and phosphate portions, and those which interact exclusively (or nearly so) with the phosphate portion. It was thought for many years that most metal ions could rather neatly be placed in one of the above classifications. However, as pointed out by Eichhorn and Shin<sup>55</sup> present evidence is that the choice of a metal ion for a binding site on polynucleotides is not an allor-nothing proposition. It has become clear that, particularly in the case of the transition metal ions, one can speak of *degrees* of binding by a given metal ion to *both* phosphate and base sites and these *degrees* vary from metal ion to metal ion.

This concept is confirmed by a recent Raman study in which the binding of  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Zn^{2+}$  to the base appears to be weaker than to the phosphate. $56$  The situation is further complicated by the fact that the bases themselves offer in each case several sites for metal ion coordination, and there has been considerable difference of opinion concerning which of these sites is coordinated to a given metal ion. Furthermore, recent evidence shows the ribose group to contain sites which coordinate with metal ions either alone or in conjunction with the base and/or phosphate moieties. Much of the controversy over site assignments may be eliminated in the future by a more general application of the recent suggestion, based on proton nuclear magnetic resonance data taken in  $(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO$  solutions, that multiple complexation sites exist in the case of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>-AMP$  complexes.<sup>24</sup> Berger and Eichhorn found, in the case of the AMP isomers (2'-AMP, **2':** 3'-cyclic AMP, and **3'** : *5* '-cyclic AMP), that approximately equal amounts of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  are bound to sites on the pyrimidine ring near  $C_2$  and to sites on the imidazole ring near  $C_8$ .<sup>24</sup> It is likely that the experimental results obtained by various investigators have often indicated the existence of one, but not other, metalnucleic acid species thus leading to incomplete site assignments. In recent years, the sites of metal coordination have been established in many cases using techniques, *i.e.*, <sup>81</sup>P nmr, proton nmr, **15N** nmr, which were not available to earlier workers. In general, the earlier assignments, many of which were found to be incorrect, are not discussed, but reference to them can be traced through the cited references. Carrabine and Sundaralingam<sup>57</sup> point out that combined metal and proton binding disturbs the entire electronic system of the ring in the  $Cu^{2+}-$ guanine HCl system and suggest that methods which measure localized perturbations should be used with caution. However, in a proton nmr study of  $Cu^{2+}$ adenosine and Cu<sup>2+</sup>-adenosine nucleotides, Berger and Eichhorn<sup>24</sup> sought but were unable to find any evidence that the perturbations on either the five- or six-membered adenine ring systems were transferred to the other ring.

A concise discussion of the methods which have been used to study the structures of metal-nucleic acid complexes has appeared.<sup>58</sup> These methods include proton-competing reactions, cation-sensitive electrodes, ion-exchange resin, and other ligand competition reactions, spectroscopy (ultraviolet, visible, and infrared), magnetic resonance spectroscopy (electron spin resonance, \*lP nmr, proton nmr, **15N** nmr), optical rotary dispersion, thermal transition, conductometric titration, and relaxation spectrometric assay. Raman spectroscopy has also been used to study the structures of metalnucleic acid complexes; *e.g.,* see ref *56.* 

The discussion which follows is organized under the headings Alkali Metal Ions, Alkaline Earth Metal Ions, First Transition Series Metal Ions, and Other Metal Ions, in that order. The probable complexation sites are indicated in each section and are summarized in section F.

#### **B. ALKALI METAL IONS**

Alkali metal ions are generally considered to be poor complexing agents although recently they have been shown to form

**<sup>(56)</sup>** L. Rimai and **M.** E. Heyde, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.,* **41, 313 (1970).** 

**<sup>(57)</sup>** J. **A.** Carrabine and M. Sundaralingam, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* **92, 369 (1970).** 

**<sup>(55)</sup> G.** L. Eichhorn and *Y.* **A.** Shin, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* **90, 7323 (1968).** 

**<sup>(58)</sup>** U. Weser, *Struct. Bonding (Berlin),* **5, 41 (1968).** 

rather stable complexes with many ligands, *e.g.,* cyclic polyethers, $59,60$  ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid, $61$  and hexacyanoferrate ion.<sup>62</sup> Additional examples may be found in recent compilations.<sup>63,64</sup> The formation constants of the  $K^+$ - ATP and Na+-ATP complexes were estimated by early workers' to be  $\sim$ 10. Recent, direct measurements of these constants using ion selective electrodes give the values **220** and **229,**  respectively; $65,668$  however, there is controversy concerning the value for  $K^{+,66b,c}$  The equal degree of association of Na<sup>+</sup> and  $K^+$  with ATP has been confirmed by the fact that freezing point depressions of aqueous solutions of  $Na<sub>4</sub>ATP$  and  $Na<sub>2</sub>$ - $K_2$ ATP are equal.<sup>67</sup>

Recent proton nmr work<sup>68</sup> indicates that electrolytes (e.g.,  $Mg(CIO<sub>4</sub>)$ , NaClO<sub>4</sub>, NaOAc, NaCl,  $(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>4</sub>NCl$ , and tetrabutylammonium chloride) can have important effects on the conformations of nucleosides and nucleotides possibly because of the effect of the electrolyte on the water structure. Dissolving DNA in distilled water is known to result in its denaturation;<sup>69,70</sup> however, high concentrations of alkali metal ions stabilize the double helical structure presumably by neutralization of the negative charges on the phosphates which in aqueous solution repel each other causing destabilization.<sup>71</sup> Also, Na<sup>+</sup> ions are bound more strongly by native than by denatured  $DNA$ <sup>72-74</sup> and the base composition of the DNA does not affect the binding of Li+, Na+, **K+,** or  $Cs^{+,75}$  There is general agreement that alkali metal ions bind phosphate rather than base sites. Gordon<sup>76</sup> cites the absence of spectral shifts in adenine, adenosine, AMP, and RNA solutions containing  $Li^+$ , Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Rb<sup>+</sup>, or Cs<sup>+</sup> as evidence that these metal ions bind to the phosphate moieties.

Whether the alkali metal ions act as counterions or are attached to specific sites has not been determined unambiguously. Dialysis equilibrium and conductance data suggest that sodium ions do not bind specific sites in DNA but remain close to the DNA chains as counterions.<sup> $77$ </sup> This possibility receives strong support from studies of other polyelectrolytes such as polystyrenesulfonic acid where the binding of  $H<sup>+</sup>$  and alkali metal ions is known to be of a diffuse elec-

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trostatic type.78 However, Donnan equilibrium data lead to the conclusion that counterion site binding may exist in DNA interactions with Li+, Na+, and **K+.79** One evidence for site binding is that the Donnan equilibrium data are consistent with the binding order of  $Li^+$  > Na<sup>+</sup> > K<sup>+</sup> which has also been observed for many other simple and complex phosphate compounds and which would be expected on theoretical grounds.

Specific site binding is supported by a study of the effect of ionizing radiations from a  $60C$  source on the binding properties of  $Cs^+$  with DNA.<sup>80</sup> Retention of  $134Cs$  by the DNA is decreased following irradiation presumably because of the action of the ionizing radiations in decreasing the number of phosphates available for  $Cs^+$  binding.

The evidence indicates that alkali metal ions bind exclusively to the phosphate moieties of ribonucleotides and DNA. Additional experimental work appears necessary to fully understand the nature of the interactions.

### C. ALKALINE EARTH METAL IONS

Phillips' summarizes the various types of evidence used to establish the binding sites of  $Mg^{2+}$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  to the adenine nucleotides and concludes that these ions bind the phosphate but not the ring portion of the nucleotides. Specifically, interaction occurs on the  $\alpha$ -phosphate in AMP,  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -phosphates in ADP, and  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -phosphates in ATP. In an infrared study of freeze-dried samples of Mg<sup>2+</sup>-AMP, Mg<sup>2+</sup>-ADP,  $Mg^{2+}-ATP$ , and  $Mg^{2+}-ITP$ , interpretation of bond shifts leads to the conclusions that  $Mg^{2+}$  binds to phosphate in all cases and that the purine nucleus is involved in complex formation in ADP and ATP, but not in AMP.<sup>81</sup> No information could be obtained concerning the interaction of the  $C_6O$ group of the inosine nucleotides with  $Mg^{2+}$  since the C<sub>6</sub>O group absorbs in the region of interest. By studying  $Mg^{2+}$ interaction with adenosine and pyrophosphate or tripolyphosphate ions present together in equal molar amounts, it was shown that no interaction occurs with adenosine unless it is in the same molecule with the phosphate group. Interpretation of absorption spectra led to the conclusion that  $Mg^{2+}$ and  $Ca<sup>2+</sup>$  were interacting simultaneously with ring N atoms and triphosphate 0 atoms in ATP and other nucleoside triphosphates;<sup>82</sup> however, more recent <sup>15</sup>N nmr,<sup>83</sup> proton mnr,<sup>84</sup> temperature jump,<sup>85</sup> and Raman<sup>86</sup> data have established that in aqueous solution these ions do not complex with the nitrogen atoms of ATP. The suggestion has been made, $87$ however, that the small chemical shifts of the ring protons observed<sup>84</sup> in Mg<sup>2+</sup>-ATP complexes reflect the insensitivity of the proton chemical shift to  $Mg^{2+}$  binding rather than the absence of  $Mg^{2+}$  binding. Site binding to the phosphate moieties of ribonucleotides by Ba<sup>2+</sup>, Sr<sup>2+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, and Mg<sup>2+</sup> is indicated by the increased stability of the complex formed

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<sup>(60)</sup> H. K. Frensdorff, *ibid.,* **93,** 600 (1971).

<sup>(61)</sup> R. L. Carroll and R. R. Irani, *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem.,* **30,** 2971 (1968).

<sup>(62)</sup> W. A. Eaton, P. George, and *G.* I. H. Hanania, *J. Phys. Chem.,* 71, 2016 (1967).

<sup>(63)</sup> L. G. Sillen and **A. E.** Martell "Stability Constants, " Special Publication No. 17, The Chemical Soiiety, London, 1964.

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by each cation as chain length is increased in the order AMP, ADP, ATP.<sup>88,89</sup> The results of a potentiometric titration determination of the pK values of the base (pK = 4) and phosphate ( $pK = 6$ ) groups of 3'-AMP, ADP, and ATP in the presence and absence of  $Mg^{2+}$  are given in Table III.<sup>90</sup> It is seen that Mg<sup>2+</sup> has very little effect on the pK

*Table 111*  **pK Values of 3'-AMP, ADP, and ATP in the Presence and Absence of Mg2+ and Zn2+ (0.1** *M* **KCI, 25°)w** 

Ligand	Metal	pК (base)	рK (phosphate)		
$3'$ -AMP	$\rm H^+$	3.93	6.55		
	$Mg^{2+}$	3.93	6.30		
	$Zn^{2+}$	3.91	6.02		
ADP	$H^+$	4.21	6.61		
	$Mg^{2+}$	4.16	5.86		
	$\mathsf{Zn}^{2+}$	3.98	5.19		
ATP	$H^+$	4.26	6.73		
	$Mg^{2+}$	4.12	5.35		
	$\overline{Zn^{2+}}$	3.83	4.91		

value of the base ionization but has a considerable effect on the  $pK$  value of the phosphate group, indicating that binding of  $Mg^{2+}$  is primarily to the phosphate group. The recent finding<sup>90a</sup> using proton nmr and kinetic data that certain transition metal ions coordinate to the  $N_7$  site of ATP *cia* a water bridge structure has prompted the suggestion that  $Mg^{2+}$ and/or  $Ca^{2+}$  may complex in a similar fashion. Interactions of the ATP-M-ATP type where  $M = Mg^{2+}$  or Ca<sup>2+</sup> have been observed in a Raman spectra study. $90<sup>b</sup>$  These complexes dissociate in the presence of excess NaC1. Possible biological implications have been noted.

The change in the pH of poly $(A)$  and poly $(U)$  solutions upon addition of  $MgCl<sub>2</sub>$  led to the postulation<sup>91</sup> that the Mg2+ was bound to the terminal secondary phosphate group. Felsenfeld and Huang<sup>92</sup> conclude from conductometric titration data of Mg<sup>2+</sup> and Mn<sup>2+</sup> interaction with poly(A) and poly-(U) that only 1 equiv of divalent cation reacts with these polynucleotides. Furthermore, their data do not support the suggestions<sup>77</sup> that purine bases in denatured DNA are involved in the binding of divalent cations or that cations are bound more strongly at purine than they are at pyrimidine sites. The latter conclusion is based on the observation that the binding properties of  $poly(A)$  and  $poly(U)$  are the same within experimental uncertainty.

Evidence has been presented<sup>93</sup> that  $Mg^{2+}$  and  $Ca^{2+}$  are integral components of tobacco mosaic virus RNA. Dialysis of a 2.5% solution of the virus nucleic acid at  $4^{\circ}$  for 24 hr against 0.1 *M* phosphate at pH 7 lowered the Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration (initially 210  $\mu$ g/g of virus) below an experimentally

detectable level and reduced the  $Mg^{2+}$  concentration (initially 1900  $\mu$ g/g of virus) to about one-tenth its original value, suggesting that  $Mg^{2+}$  is more strongly bound than is Ca<sup>2+</sup>. Dialysis studies<sup>94</sup> show Mg<sup>2+</sup> to be bound preferentially over  $K^+$ to specific sites on RNA. Only when the  $K<sup>+</sup>$  concentration is increased 100-fold is the amount of bound  $Mg^{2+}$  appreciably decreased. It has been demonstrated that Mg<sup>2+</sup> interacts with DNA<sup>55,70,71,74,77,95,96</sup> although there is disagreement concerning both the site of binding and the relative affinities of native and denatured DNA for  $Mg^{2+}$ . Spectral and conductivity results agree that 0.8 equiv of  $Mg^{2+}$  per atom of DNA phosphorus is taken up by native DNA.69 If the DNA is treated with alkali, and the salt removed by dialysis, the resulting (probably partially denatured) DNA showed an uptake of 1.0 and 0.44-0.32 equiv of  $Mg^{2+}$  from spectral and conductance data, respectively. A dialysis study<sup>97</sup> shows little if any difference between the affinities of denatured and native DNA for Mg<sup>2+</sup>. However, Zubay<sup>98</sup> in a conductometric experiment concluded that  $Mg^{2+}$  is strongly bound by the NH<sub>2</sub> groups on adenine and guanine because denatured DNA has a greater affinity than native DNA for  $Mg^{2+}$  and there is a significant decrease in  $Mg^{2+}$  binding by denatured DNA in the presence of formaldehyde. Formaldehyde has been shown<sup>99</sup> to react with the adenine amino group. Absorption spectra of heat-denatured calf thymus DNA were similar in the presence and absence of  $Mg^{2+}$ , suggesting  $Mg^{2+}$  binding to the phosphate groups. However, if the DNA is denatured in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$ , the spectra lead to the conclusion that  $Mg^{2+}$  then binds also to the bases.<sup>100</sup> All other evidence indicates that  $Mg^{2+}$  binds primarily to the phosphate groups of DNA. The melting temperature  $(T_m)$  of DNA is raised from 63 to 80 $^{\circ}$  in the presence of Mg<sup>2+</sup> indicating that the double helix is stabilized by  $Mg^{2+}$  presumably through phosphate binding.<sup>55,95</sup> Upon subsequent cooling the Mg<sup>2+</sup> is believed to hold the single chains of DNA in close proximity, thereby permitting the hydrogen bonds broken by heating to re-form. Activity coefficient data96 determined in the absence of competing cations lead to the conclusion that the interaction between  $Mg^{2+}$  and DNA in pure water is of a diffuse electrostatic type with very little actual site binding. This interaction would nevertheless involve the phosphate groups where the negative charges are located.

Two highly purified yeast alanine tRNA's have been found in the absence of added  $Mg^{2+}$  (where  $[Mg^{2+}]$  present  $\langle 10^{-6} M \rangle$ to exist in partially base paired  $(66\% \text{ of the maximum})$ conformations.<sup>101</sup> Addition of Mg<sup>2+</sup>  $(>10^{-3} M)$  causes both tRNA's to undergo similar conformation changes involving a net increase in base pairs (33 $\%$ ) and a reduction of molecular volume with the Mg<sup>2+</sup> coordinated to the phosphate groups.

The available evidence is that the alkaline earth metal ions interact only with the phosphate moiety in the ribonucleotides, polyribonucleotides, DNA, and RNA. No data are available in the case of  $Be^{2+}$  and, apparently, the pos-

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<sup>(93)</sup> H. **S.** Loring and R. **S.** Waritz, *Science,* **125,** 646 (1957).

<sup>(94)</sup> **A.** Goldberg, *J. Mol. Biol.,* **15,** 663 (1966).

<sup>(97)</sup> K. C. Banerjee and D. **J.** Perkins, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* **61,** 1 (1962).

sible interaction of these metal ions with the ribose group has not been investigated.

### **D. FIRST TRANSITION SERIES METAL** IONS

### *1. Introduction*

It was early recognized<sup>93</sup> that the transition metal ions Fe and Cu were components of tobacco mosaic virus DNA and that they were very strongly attached to complexing sites of the nucleic acid. Wacker and Vallee<sup>102</sup> using chelating agents and dialysis as a function of pH were able only with difficulty to remove the metals Cr, Ni, Mn, Fe, and Cd from RNA preparations obtained from phylogenetically diverse sources. The presence of Mn in RNA isolated from human and rat tissues has been confirmed.<sup>103</sup> The extreme difficulty of removing these or other metals from these preparations and the observation<sup>104</sup> that they stabilize the ordered structure of RNA indicate that they may play a significant role in the maintenance of the configuration of the RNA molecule possibly linking purine or pyrimidine bases or both, through covalent bonds. It was further suggested<sup>102</sup> that metals may bear a functional relationship to protein synthesis and the transmission of genetic information. Thus, transition metal ions are known to be present in and extremely tightly bound to the naturally occurring RNA material, and it is likely that they are responsible for holding the RNA molecules in specific conformations. This last property may be an important one in the action of RNA in protein synthesis and in the transmission of genetic information.

In the following discussion the several transition metal ions are treated separately. Few interaction sites of these metal ions with the purines, pyrimidines, and their nucleosides have been determined. However, in the nucleotides, polynucleotides, DNA, and RNA interactions with base, phosphate and ribose have been reported in several instances. An interesting aspect of the coordination involving at least the bivalent metal ions is their reported<sup>55</sup> increasing *degree* of affinity for the base relative to phosphate site in the sequence  $Co<sup>2+</sup>$ , Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>. The sites of interaction for the transition metal ions are summarized in Table IV.

### *2. Chromium*

A pulsed nmr technique has been employed<sup>105,106</sup> to measure the spin-lattice relaxation time of the water protons in the presence of paramagnetic ions and DNA. The observed relaxation times are a function of the concentration of metal ion and also of its environment *(i.e., free or bound)*. In the case of  $Cr^{3+}$ , interpretation of the relaxation time data leads to the conclusion that  $Cr<sup>3+</sup>$  is bound to DNA at exterior sites, probably the phosphate groups. Since  $Cr^{3+}$  is concentrated in RNA rather than in proteins and it has a preference for octahedral holes (over any irregular geometry) due to the large ligand field stabilization energy arising from appropriate splitting of the 3d subshells in the field

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### *3. Manganese*

Coordination of  $Mn^{2+}$  with the phosphate groups of ribonucleotides has been demonstrated in aqueous solutions for AMP, ADP, and/or ATP by  ${}^{31}P$  nmr, ${}^{84,108-111}$  potentiometric, ${}^{88}$ ion exchange,  $112$  electron spin resonance,  $113$  infrared,  $114$ and Raman<sup>56</sup> studies. Interaction with all available phosphates is indicated by  ${}^{31}P$  nmr spectra in the cases of AMP,  ${}^{108}$  ADP, ${}^{84}$ and ATP,  $84,110$  but an infrared study<sup>114</sup> of the changes in the phosphate absorption bands in the  $900-1300$ -cm<sup>-1</sup> region in the presence of Mn<sup>2+</sup> showed only the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -phosphates of ATP to be coordinated to  $Mn^{2+}$ . The presence of neither the adenine ring nor the ribose group influenced the infrared spectra. Furthermore, similar results were obtained if methyl triphosphate was substituted for ATP.

A Raman spectral study<sup>56</sup> of  $Mn^{2+}-ATP$  interaction shows the  $Mn^{2+}$  to bind the base moiety and to promote intramolecular base-phosphate interaction. Proton nmr data indicate that  $Mn^{2+}$  binds the adenine ring of ADP<sup>84</sup> and ATP. $84,111,113$  Since the C<sub>8</sub>H peak is broadened, $84$  coordination apparently ocurs at the  $N_7$  site of ADP and ATP with possible participation from the  $C_6NH_2$  group.<sup>87</sup> However, Sundaralingam<sup>115</sup> in an examination of the conformational possibilities for metal-nucleotide interaction discounts the  $C_6NH_2$  group as a complexing site. He points out that the amino group in adenine is highly conjugated with the ring and has considerable double bond character with a resulting lowered basicity compared to the amino groups of aniline or amino acids. Support for the binding of  $Mn^{2+}$ to the base moiety of ATP is found in a recent proton nmr and kinetic study.<sup>90a</sup> The experimental data were accounted for by assuming that a water molecule forms a bridge between the  $Mn^{2+}$  and the N<sub>7</sub> site. The remaining metal coordination sites were phosphate oxygen atoms. Optical rotary dispersion data suggest<sup>116</sup> an interaction of Mn<sup>2+</sup> with the 2'- and 3'-OH groups of ATP.

Binding of  $Mn^{2+}$  to the phosphate moieties of DNA,  $poly(A)$ ,  $poly(I)$ ,  $poly(C)$ , and  $poly(U)$  has been established by a pulsed nmr technique,  $105, 106, 116$  and binding between  $Mn^{2+}$  and the phosphate moieties of RNA has been demonstrated by a  $31P$  nmr method.<sup>108</sup> It is concluded from a conductometric titration study that  $Mn^{2+}$  does not bind the adenine bases in poly(A).<sup>92</sup> Eichhorn and Shin<sup>55</sup> deduce from the effect of  $Mn^{2+}$  on the melting temperature of DNA that  $Mn^{2+}$  interacts with both the phosphate and nucleic acid bases in DNA, This conclusion is based on the ability of  $Mn^{2+}$  to cause partial rewinding of the double helix at lower

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- (110) H. Sternlicht, R. G. Shulman, and E. W. Anderson, *J. Chem. Phys.*, **43**, 3123 (1965).

- (112) **E.** Walaas, *Acta Chem. Scand.,* 12, 528 (1958).
- (113) J. E. Maling, L. T. Taskovich, and M. **S.** Blois, *Biophys. J.,* **3,**  79 (1963).
- (114) H. Brintzinger, *Biochim. Biophys. Acfa,* 77, 343 (1963).
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<sup>-</sup>  (107) R. J. P. Williams, *Biopolymers, S.vmp.,* **NO. 1,** 515 (1964).

<sup>(108)</sup> R. G. Shulman, H. Sternlicht, and B. **J.** Wyluda, *J. Chem. Phys.,* 43, 3116 (1965).

<sup>(111)</sup> H. Sternlicht, D. E. Jones, and K. Kustin, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,*  **90,** 7110 (1968).

temperatures and the shift in the absorption maximum of DNA in its presence. The fact that RNA, but not DNA, is depolymerized by  $Mn^{2+}$  and several other metal ions resulted in the plausible suggestion<sup> $71,117$ </sup> that degradation by metal ions proceeds through chelation of the metal between the phosphate and the 2'-hydroxyl group. However, in a later study Butzow and Eichhorn<sup>117a</sup> showed that this complex was not an intermediate in the degradation of polynucleotides. Working with simpler substrates, ribooligomers of defined nucleoside sequence, the kinetics of the breakage of the phosphodiester bond in the presence of  $Zn^{2+}$  were determined spectrophotometrically, and the products of the reaction were identified by thin layer chromatography. The fact that 2': 3'-cyclic phosphodiesters are found in the reaction mixture strongly suggests that the zinc degradation proceeds through a 2': 3' cyclic phosphate form. Chelation of the  $Zn^{2+}$  with the 2'hydroxyl group should favor the direct cleavage and, therefore, would not be expected to occur. Rather, as seen in **25**  the zinc ions binding to the phosphate groups polarize the PO linkage, producing a positive dipole on the phosphorus atom which then forms a ring with a Z'-hydroxyl group. Subsequently, the phosphodiester linkage is cleaved. Presumably, other metal ions  $(Mn^{2+}, Co^{2+}, Ni^{2+}, Cu^{2+}, La^{3+},$  $Ce<sup>3+</sup>$ , and Lu<sup>3+</sup>) found to depolymerize RNA<sup>117</sup> also proceed through a mechanism similar to **25.** 



Electron paramagnetic resonance data are consistent with the bonding of  $Mn^{2+}$  in RNA to the oxygen atoms in two phosphate groups.<sup>103</sup> Possible binding of  $Mn^{2+}$  to ribose OH groups or to the nitrogenous bases cannot be excluded by this technique, but the spectra do not support binding to the base nitrogen atoms.

#### *4. Iron*

The interactions of  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$  with adenine nucleotides,  $poly(A)$ , and methylated  $poly(A)$  have been studied by Mössbauer spectroscopy.<sup>118</sup> The Mössbauer spectral data for  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>-$ AMP, -ADP, and -ATP interaction at low pH support a model in which  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$  is surrounded by an octahedral arrangement of oxygen atoms indicating binding only to the phosphate moiety of the nucleotides. When the pH is raised to **7,**  the resulting quadrupole splittings suggest that one or more ring nitrogen atoms have replaced oxygen donor atoms on the  $Fe^{3+}$ . The spectrum for the interaction of  $Fe^{3+}$  with poly(A) methylated at the  $N_1$  position resembles almost exactly that for  $Fe^{3+}-AMP$  and  $Fe^{3+}-poly(A)$  showing that the  $N_1$  position is not involved in complex formation with Fe<sup>3+</sup>. Thus the N<sub>7</sub> and/or  $C_6NH_2$  positions appear to be the sites of binding in the nucleotides. In this study all samples used were lyophilized powders and the temperature was **77°K.** 

A Mössbauer study<sup>119</sup> of Fe<sup>3+</sup> interaction with guanine, ribose, and guanosine at liquid  $N_2$  temperature using lyophilized samples showed the behavior of the Fe3+ toward ribose to be quite different from that toward the other two compounds. The Mössbauer spectra of the guanine complex is a singlet unaffected by changing pH and is characteristic of high-spin Fe(II1) complexes. On formation of the Fe(II1) ribose complex there is incomplete reduction of the Fe(II1); however, no reduction of Fe(III) occurs in the Fe(III)guanosine complex.

Equilibrium constant data<sup>120</sup> for the reaction of  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$ with ADP, ATP, ITP, GTP, CTP, and UTP show (1) the formation constant to increase in the series ADP, ATP indicating phosphate interaction, and **(2)** no significant stability difference when the base is changed. The conclusion drawn from these results was that there was little or no interaction of Fe3+ with the bases.

Pulsed nmr data<sup>105,106</sup> lead to the conclusion that  $Fe^{2+}$ is bound to phosphate rather than interior base sites in DNA, but were inconclusive on whether Fe<sup>3+</sup> was bound to interior base or exterior phosphate sites. However, Eichhorn<sup>95</sup> explains the change in optical density of  $Fe<sup>2+</sup>-DNA$  solutions as the solution temperature is raised from **30** to 90" by **as**suming initial binding of  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$  to phosphate followed by a change to binding of the nucleotide bases after the hydrogen bonds have been broken. It would thus appear that in this case the binding sites may depend on the temperature of the system.

In a radioactive isotope study of tobacco mosaic virus RNA-Fe<sup>3+</sup> interaction, Singer<sup>121</sup> concluded that Fe<sup>3+</sup> binds to the bases of RNA since the same amount of  $Ca<sup>2+</sup>$  was bound to the RNA whether the  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$  was present or not, and Ca2+ was assumed to bind only to the phosphate groups. Williams<sup>107</sup> has found that the major portion of the iron bound to RNA can be removed on dialysis and is presumably bound to the phosphate groups. However, a much smaller portion of the total iron is very difficult to remove and on the basis of spectral data is believed to be bound to the RNA bases. Spectral evidence indicates that this iron is present as low-spin Fe(I1).

It would appear that formation of  $Fe^{2+}$  and  $Fe^{3+}$  complexes of these compounds is very dependent on the experimental conditions of pH, temperature, presence of other cations, etc. More work on these most interesting systems seems warranted.

**<sup>(117)</sup>** J. **J. Butzow** and G. L. Eichhorn, *Biopolymers, 3,* **95 (1965).**  (117a) **J. J. Butzow** and G. L. Eichhorn, *Biochemistry,* **10,2019 (1971). (118)** I. N. Rabinowitz, F. F. Davis, and R. H. Herber, *J. Amer. Chem.*  **Soc., 88, 4346 (1966).** 

**<sup>(119)</sup>** R. **A.** Stukan, **A.** N. Il'ina, Yu. Sh. Moshkovskii,and V. I. Gol'- danskii, *Biophysics (USSR)* **10, 343 (1965).** 

**<sup>(120)</sup> C.** R. Goucher and J. F. Taylor, *J. Biol. Chem.,* **239, 2251 (1964).** 

**<sup>(121)</sup>** B. Singer, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta, SO,* **137 (1964).** 

#### 5. *Cobalt*

Adenine-cobalt complexes were first reported<sup>122</sup> in 1951. The complexes were studied calorimetrically by the  $\alpha$ -nitroso- $\beta$ naphthol reaction with a parallel isotopic method, but no attempt was made to assign sites of coordination. Infrared spectral data for a solid  $Co<sup>2+</sup>$ -adenine complex were interpreted to show  $Co^{2+}$  binding to the  $C_6NH_2$  and  $N_7$  groups with two additional OH groups bound to  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  as in 26.<sup>123</sup> In strong acid solution this complex is also stable with the OH groups being converted to  $H_2O$  molecules. Brigando and Colaitis<sup>124</sup> in an infrared study of solid  $Co<sup>3+</sup>$ -adenosine complexes report that  $Co^{3+}$  binds to the  $C_6NH_2$  and  $C_5(OH)$ groups as indicated in 27. They specifically eliminate binding to  $N<sub>7</sub>$ .



Kan and  $Li^{125}$  in an nmr study of the Co<sup>2+</sup>-adenosine system in dimethyl sulfoxide observe that addition of  $Co<sup>2+</sup>$ causes approximately equal downfield shifts of the CsH and  $C_2H$  signals and a broadening of the  $C_6NH_2$  signal. Interpretation of these data led to postulation of the  $N_7$  and amino groups as the binding sites. However, these results and those involving  $Co^{2+-}$  and  $Co^{3+-}$ adenine interaction should be considered carefully in view of the considerable evidence that the amino group is not involved in metal $24,115$ or proton<sup>25</sup> complexation in purines.

bind to AMP, ADP, and ATP in a manner similar to that of  $Mn^{2+}$ , and the discussion given under manganese is relevant. In a recent study employing difference spectroscopy it was concluded that  $Co^{2+}$  was bonded only to the phosphate groups of AMP, ADP, and ATP.<sup>126</sup> However, proton nmr  $data^{87}$  show  $Co^{2+}$  to interact with all three phosphate oxygen atoms (*i.e.*,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$ ) and the N<sub>7</sub> nitrogen of ATP with possible binding to the  $C_6NH_2$  also. Similarly, proton nmr data show binding of Co<sup>2+</sup> between the N<sub>7</sub> and the C<sub>6</sub>O<sup>-</sup> groups of ITP.87 Cobalt(I1) ion has been found8 **4,85,87,88,90%** 108-1 10,112,114,118 to

Pulsed nmr data<sup>105</sup> lead to the conclusion that in DNA Co2+ is bound to phosphate rather than to interior *(i.e.,*  base) sites. Eichhorn and Shin,<sup>55</sup> however, found in an ultraviolet spectral study of  $Co<sup>2+</sup>$ -DNA interaction as a function of temperature that  $Co^{2+}$  could produce partial rewinding of the DNA double helix indicating, in addition to strong phosphate interaction, some tendency to react with the bases. They place  $Co^{2+}$  above  $Mg^{2+}$ , approximately equal to Ni<sup>2+</sup> and below Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, and Cu<sup>2+</sup> in its affinity for base sites. It has been concluded from 31P nmr data108 that  $Co<sup>2+</sup>$  binds to phosphate in RNA. The earlier postulation of a  $Co^{2+}$  chelate involving the 2'-OH group of ribose<sup>71,117</sup> has been found to be incorrect.<sup>117a</sup>

#### *6. Nickel*

Interaction sites for  $Ni^{2+}$  have been found to be essentially the same as those for  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Co^{2+}$ . The affinity of Ni<sup>2+</sup> for base sites is reported to be similar to that of  $\text{Co}^{2+65}$  Using a temperature jump procedure, Karpel, Kustin, and Wolff<sup>126a</sup> find a 1:1 complex formed between  $Ni<sup>2+</sup>$  and adenine. The kinetic data are consistent with the formation of a chelate involving the  $N_7$  and  $C_6NH_2$  groups of adenine. The reader is referred to earlier sections on Mn and Co for additional literature references.

### 7. *Copper*

More experimental work has been reported for the binding of the ligands considered here by  $Cu^{2+}$  than by any other single metal ion. The binding studies have included **Cu2+**  interactions with bases, nucleosides, nucleotides, and nucleic acids, and they are discussed in that order.

#### a. Copper-Base Interactions

The purine bases have two high electron density centers which are possible sites for metal ion chelation, *viz.*,  $C_6NH_2/$  $C_6O-N_7$  (28) and  $N_3-N_9$  (29). Chelation of Cu<sup>2+</sup> by both

![](_page_10_Figure_19.jpeg)

sites has been suggested. Structure **28** has been proposed for solution reactions<sup>26, 32, 127, 128</sup> partly on the basis of structural similarities between purines and 8-hydroxyquinoline. **<sup>32</sup>** Aqueous solution stability constant measurements for the interaction of  $Cu^{2+}$  with various substituted purines has led to the postulation<sup>129</sup> of structure 29 in the cases of adenine, hypoxanthine, and xanthine although there is some uncertainty in the assignment. Recent electron spin resonance<sup>130</sup> and X-ray crystallographic<sup>131</sup> studies show 29 to be the structure for solid  $Cu^{2+}-$ adenine complexes. However, infrared data using the KBr disk technique indicate that **28**  is the structure in the solid  $Cu^{2+}-$ guanine complex.<sup>132</sup> Arguments for the inability of the amino group to bind  $Cu^{2+}$ have been presented.<sup>115</sup>

The crystal structure of a 2 :1 cytosine-copper(I1) chloride complex has been shown by X-ray crystallography to consist of a copper atom binding two bases at the  $N_3$  positions with only weak binding (if any) by the base oxygen atoms. **<sup>33</sup>**

The affinity of pyrimidine bases for  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  appears to be much lower than that of purine bases. No evidence was found

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<sup>(122)</sup> **J.** Liquier-Milward, *Nature (London),* **167,** 1068 (1951).

<sup>(123)</sup> J. Brigando and D. Colaitis, *Bull. SOC. Chim. Fr.,* 3445 (1969).

<sup>(124)</sup> **J.** Brigando and D. Colaitis, *ibid.,* 3449 (1969).

<sup>(125)</sup> L. **S.** Kan and N. C. Li, *J. Amer. Chem.* **SOC.,** 92,281 (1970).

<sup>(126)</sup> **U. Weser** and M. Donnicke, *Z. Naturforsch. B,* 25, 592 (1970).

<sup>(126</sup>a) R. L Karpel, K. Kustin, and M. A. Wolff, *J. Phys. Chem.*, 75, 799<br>(1971).

<sup>(127)</sup> A. Albert and E. P. Serjeant, *Biochem. J.,* **76,** 621 (1960).

<sup>(128)</sup> E. Frieden and **J.** Alles, *J. Biol. Chem.,* **230,** 797 (1957).

<sup>(129)</sup> H. Reinert and R. Weiss, *Hoppe-Seyler's 2. Physiol. Chem.,* **350,** 1310 (1969).

<sup>(130)</sup> D. M. L. Goodgame and K. A. Price, *Nature (London*), 220, 783 (1968).

<sup>(132)</sup> D. Crăciunescu and Al. Fruma, *Inorg. Chim. Acta*, 4, 287 (1970).

<sup>(133)</sup> **J.** A. Carrabine and M. Sundaralingam, *Chem. Commun.,* 746 (1968).

for complexation of  $Cu^{2+}$  with uracil in hot water<sup>134</sup> or with cytidine or uridine in a Raman study.<sup>135</sup> In a proton magnetic resonance study,<sup>136</sup> the addition of CuCl<sub>2</sub> to cytosine in dimethyl sulfoxide broadened the  $C<sub>5</sub>H$  peak slightly more than the  $C_6H$  peak, leading to the conclusion that  $Cu(II)$ binds at the  $N_3$  position. Melzer<sup>134</sup> treated CuCl<sub>2</sub> with methanol for 3 hr and in unbuffered aqueous solution ( $pH \sim 5.5$ ) at 80" for 30 min obtaining two complexes having Cu to cytosine ratios of 1 : 2 and 1 : 1. Yields of 71 and *5* % were obtained for the two complexes in methanol and 13 and 11  $\%$ in aqueous solution. These results suggest the possibility of cytosine-Cu<sup>2+</sup>-cytosine cross linkages in DNA and may explain the naure of the very stable linking of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  to nucleic acid found by Wacker and Vallee.<sup>102</sup>

Further work directed toward elucidating the sites of  $Cu^{2+}$ interaction with purines and pyrimidines, particularly in aqueous solution, is clearly needed.

#### b. Copper-Nucleoside Interactions

Complexes of first transition series metal ions (including  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$ ) with purine and pyrimidine nucleosides in aqueous solution have been postulated. **32, 137,** 138 No evidence is found in pH titration studies<sup>26, 32, 139</sup> for  $Cu^{2+}-$ adenosine interaction. The fact that the pH titration curve of the copper $(II)$ -adenosine system is essentially the same as that of hydrated  $Cu^{2+}$ was later confirmed<sup>138</sup> for adenosine, guanosine, cytidine, and uridine. As has been pointed out,<sup>138</sup> the failure to observe a shift in the potentiometric titration curves could be a result of either no complex formation or complex formation proceeding without the removal of protons from the ligand molecule. Since complex formation has been demonstrated by other methods, $1^{188,140-143}$  the second explanation appears to be the correct one. Proton nmr data<sup>24</sup> valid in  $(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO$ are reported for the  $Cu^{2+}$  complexes of adenosine and tubercidin (7-deazaadenosine) which has the  $N_7$  atom replaced by C, leaving no free N on the imidazole ring to coordinate  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$ . Two potential coordinating nitrogen atoms remain on the pyrimidine ring. The major finding is that the broadening of the  $C_8H$  peak in adenosine is due to  $Cu^{2+}$  coordination at the  $N_7$  position. The C<sub>8</sub>H peak is not broadened by Cu<sup>2+</sup> coordination to the pyrimidine moiety of tubericidin, indicating that the broadening effect is not transmitted from the sixmembered ring to the five-membered ring. Tu and Friederich' **<sup>44</sup>** from both conductometric (or potentiometric) titration and spectrophotometric titration data find that 1 mol of  $Cu^{2+}$ combines with 1 mol each of guanosine and inosine. In constrast, no complex formation was found up to  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  M  $Cu^{2+}$  and  $1 \times 10^{-3}$  *M* cytidine. Complex formation was observed at the concentration of 0.1 *M* Cu<sup>2+</sup> and 0.1 *M* 

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- (138) *G.* L. Eichhorn, P. Clark, and E. D. Becker, *ibid.,* 5, 245 (1966).
- (139) M. M. Taqui Khan and **A. E.** Martell, *J. Phys. Chem.,* 66, *10*
- (1962). (140) H. Reinert and R. Weiss, *Hoppe-Seyler's Z. Phjjsiol. Chem.,* 350, 1321 (1969).
- (141) *V.* K. Srivastava, *Indian J. Biochem.,* 6, 149 (1969).
- (142) F. L. Khalil and T. L. Brown, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* 86, 5113 (1964).
- (143) P. W. Schneider, H. Brintzinger, and H. Erlenmeyer, *Helu. Chim. Acta,* 47, 992 (1964).
- (144) **A.** T. Tu and C. G. Friederich, *Biochemistry,* 7, 4367 (1968).

cytidine. Proton magnetic resonance studies of the reaction in dimethyl sulfoxide of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  with several deoxynucleosides lead to the conclusion that binding is to  $N<sub>7</sub>$  in deoxyadenosine and deoxyguanosine and  $N_3$  in deoxycytidine.<sup>138</sup> The lack of proton magnetic resonance shifts in deoxythymidine lead to the conclusion that no appreciable degree of binding occurs in this case. The amino group is not involved in the binding of  $Cu^{2+}$  by adenosine in dimethyl sulfoxide.<sup>24</sup> No change in the aqueous Raman spectrum of either cytidine or uridine was found upon addition of  $CuSO<sub>4</sub>;$ <sup>135</sup> however, interaction of  $Cu^{2+}$  with uridine (presumably at  $N_3$ , but possibly with some contribution from the  $C_4O$  group) has been confirmed by proton nmr spectra. **<sup>47</sup>**

Reinert and Weiss<sup>140</sup> report green and blue complexes with Cu<sup>2+</sup> attached to the 2' and 3' ribose oxygen atoms of adenosine and uridine. The green complex was found in the pH region 9.5-10.5 while the blue complex was stable at pH 12. Binding of  $Cu^{2+}$  to ribose hydroxyl groups as well as the uracil base of uridine in dimethyl sulfoxide solvent has also been observed in a proton nmr study.<sup>47</sup> Interaction with ribose hydroxyl groups was not observed in a similar study of Cu<sup>2+</sup>-adenosine interaction in dimethyl sulfoxide.<sup>24</sup>

#### c. Copper-Nucleotide Interaction

Potentiometric, <sup>138, 139</sup> <sup>31</sup>P nmr,<sup>84, 138</sup> and aqueous solution infrared absorption data<sup>114</sup> confirm the binding of  $Cu^{2+}$ to the phosphate portion of AMP, dAMP, dGMP, dCMP, ADP, and ATP. These studies are in essential agreement that  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  binds the available phosphate groups in the mono- and dinucleotides but only the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -phosphates in ATP. This latter behavior has been attributed to the square-planar stereochemical requirements of Cu<sup>2+</sup>. Taqui Khan and Martell<sup>139</sup> find a concentration-dependent buffer region at pH values of  $6.5-8$  in the Cu<sup>2+</sup>-ATP system which is characteristic of polynuclear complex formation. They postulate the formation of a dimer containing two  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  and two ATP species bonded only through the  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -phosphates. It is interesting that reaction of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  with IDP and ITP apparently does not involve the phosphate groups. **14:** 

Based on the observed lack of reaction (from pH titration data) between  $Cu^{2+}$  and adenosine and the increased stability of  $Cu^{2+}$  complexes in the order  $AMP < ADP < ATP$ , the suggestion was made that  $Cu^{2+}$  did not react with the base moiety of ATP.<sup>139</sup> However, proton nmr studies have demonstrated binding of  $Cu^{2+}$  to the  $N_7$  positions of the adenine base in  $dAMP<sup>138</sup>$  the guanine bases in  $2'(3')$ -GMP<sup>146</sup> and  $dGMP<sup>138</sup>$  (broadening of the  $C_6H$  peaks is observed), and to the  $N_3$  position of dCMP<sup>138</sup> and CMP (broadening of the  $C<sub>6</sub>H$  peak is observed). The N<sub>1</sub>H and NH<sub>2</sub> lines are relatively unaffected by Cu<sup>2+</sup> in dAMP, dGMP, and dCMP, eliminating them as possible binding sites.<sup>138</sup> Binding to  $N_7$  has also been demonstrated by proton nmr for ADP and ATP.<sup>84</sup> It is of further interest that proton nmr and electron spin resonance data show that  $Cu^{2+}$  is still involved in complexes with the GMP base at pH **2.** 

Reaction of  $Cu^{2+}$  with  $5'$ -GMP,<sup>144</sup>  $5'$ -IMP,<sup>144</sup> IDP,<sup>145</sup> and ITP<sup>145</sup> has been shown to involve the  $C_6O$  and  $N_7$  groups. As previously noted, no interaction of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  with the phosphate groups was found apparently because of the square-

<sup>(134)</sup> **M. S. Melzer,** *Chem. Commun,* 1052 (1967).

<sup>(135)</sup> R. C. Lord and G. J. Thomas, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* 142, 1  $(1967)$ .

<sup>(145)</sup> P. W. Schneider and H. Brintzinger, *Helu. Chim. Acta,* 47, 1717  $(1964)$ .

<sup>(146)</sup> M. Pieber, H. Reitboeck, C. Romero, and J. Tohá C., *J. Biol.* Chem., 245, 4141 (1970).

planar requirements of  $Cu^{2+}$  and its preferred binding to the  $C_6O$  group. Sigel<sup>147, 148</sup> studied Cu<sup>2+</sup>-ITP, -GTP, -UTP, and -TTP binding using mrthods based on ultraviolet difference spectra, pH titration, and  $H_2O_2$  oxidation. His results indicate interaction at  $N_7$  and perhaps C<sub>6</sub>O in ITP and GTP, and  $N_3$ in CTP, UTP, and TTP. The formation of a stable  $Cu^{2+}$ -TTP complex is interesting since no evidence was found<sup>138</sup> for interaction of Cu<sup>2+</sup> with deoxythymidine or dTMP. It is likely, however, that binding with TTP may be a result of the additional phosphates present.

In a definitive proton nmr study of the binding of  $Cu^{2+}$  to adenine nucleotides in  $D_2O$ , Berger and Eichhorn<sup>24</sup> find that  $C<sub>s</sub>H$  is broadened preferentially to  $C<sub>2</sub>H$  in 3'-AMP, 5'-AMP, and poly(A);  $C_8H$  and  $C_2H$  are broadened equally in adenosine,  $2'$ -AMP,  $3'$ :  $5'$ -cyclic AMP, and  $2'$ :  $3'$ -cyclic AMP; and C2H is broadened preferentially to CsH in tubercidin **(7**  deazaadenosine). They conclude that, in general,  $Cu^{2+}$  can bind to multiple sites on the adenine base, with preference for a given site influenced by molecular associations which in the different AMP isomers is governed by the position of the phosphate on the ribose. For example, the preferential broadening of the C<sub>s</sub>H proton in 5'-AMP indicates that  $Cu^{2+}$  coordination to the  $N_7$  position is favored by the phosphate at the 5' position. This is in contrast to adenosine where coordination to  $N_7$  and  $N_1(N_3)$  occurs in approximately equal amounts. Also, in 3'-AMP Cu<sup>2+</sup> binds preferentially to  $N_7$ even though the phosphate group is constrained to one side of the ribose and is unable to approach closely to the adenine. In contrast there is no site preference,  $N_7$  over  $N_3$  ( $N_1$ ), in the cases of adenosine,  $2'$ -AMP, or the  $3'$ :  $5'$ - or  $2'$ :  $3'$ -cyclic AMP. Their results with 3'- and 5'-AMP suggest a binuclear  $2:2 \text{ Cu}^{2+}/\text{AMP}$  complex in which the two bases are stacked with each Cu<sup>2+</sup> bound to a phosphate of one AMP and  $N_7$  of the other as seen in **30.** In the case of 2'-AMP a chelate involving  $N_3$  and a phosphate group of the same molecule is proposed as in **31.** 

From continuous variation data, it was concluded that  $Cu^{2+}$ binds poly(A), poly(C), and poly(I), but not poly(U).<sup>149</sup> The failure of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  to react with poly(U) was consistent with the earlier observations based on spectrophotometric and potentiometric data that  $Cu^{2+}$  did not react with uridine, thymidine, or  $3'(2')$ -UMP.<sup>137, 138, 144</sup> However, in a later proton nmr study Cu<sup>2+</sup> was found to bind UMP and poly(U) near N<sub>3</sub>.<sup>47</sup> The preferred binding site of  $Cu^{2+}$  in poly(A) is reported from proton nmr data to be  $N_7$ .<sup>24</sup> In poly(C) broadening of the C<sub>5</sub>H, but not the C<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, peak indicates binding of Cu<sup>2+</sup> to  $N_3$ . <sup>47</sup> Continuous variation studies<sup>149</sup> indicate that for  $[p_0]$ .  $(A, U)$  = 1 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M if  $[Cu^{2+}] \le 1 \times 10^{-4}$  M the complexing of  $poly(A)$  with  $poly(U)$  proceeds as it would in the absence of Cu<sup>2+</sup>. However, if  $\left[Cu^{2+}\right] > 1 \times 10^{-4}$  *M*, formation of  $poly(A, U)$  is virtually prevented. The reactions were also studied in the reverse direction where  $Cu^{2+}$  in excess of 50 mol  $\%$ (sum of Cu<sup>2+</sup> + polynucleotide concentrations =  $1 \times 10^{-4}$ *M*) was found to result in dissociation of the poly(A,U) complex.  $Cu^{2+}$  causes similar denaturation of poly(I,C). The explanation given for this phenomena is that  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  when present in low concentration bonds to the phosphate stabilizing the polymer. As the mole fraction of  $Cu^{2+}$  is increased, the  $Cu^{2+}$ bonds to the bases and denatures the complex poly(A,U) or poly(1,C). The denaturation of the poly(1,C) complex can be

![](_page_12_Figure_8.jpeg)

reversed by the addition of 1 *M* NaC1. When heated in the presence of  $Cu^{2+}$ , poly(A) is degraded into low molecular weight oligonucleotides by cleavage of the phosphate bonds. **<sup>117</sup>** The effect of cupric ion on ordered synthetic polynucleotides is very similar (with the exception of phosphate bond cleavage) to its effect on DNA although the synthetic polynucleotides are denatured under milder conditions than those necessary for denaturation of DNA. As pointed out by Eichhorn,<sup>138</sup> it is important to note that binding to the bases in nucleosides, nucleotides, etc., is very different from binding to the purines and pyrimidines alone, since the position of attachment of the ribose to the bases becomes a site for metal binding in the absence of the ribose bond.

### d. Copper-Nucleic Acid Interaction

The interaction of Cu<sup>2+</sup> with DNA has been subject of a number of recent studies.<sup>55, 95, 105, 106, 150-157 Proton nmr</sup> data<sup>105,106</sup> show binding of  $Cu^{2+}$  with phosphate; however, at high  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  concentrations binding to the bases appears to occur. Melting temperature  $(T_m)$  data<sup>55, 150, 153</sup> obtained under various conditions of ionic strength and  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  concentration show that addition of small quantities of  $Cu^{2+}$  to DNA (0.5)  $Cu^{2+}/2DNA$ ) causes  $T<sub>m</sub>$  to increase, indicating increased DNA

- (151) **S. E.** Bryan and **E.** Frieden, *Biochemistry,* **6,** 2728 (1967).
- (152) **J.** H. Coates, D. 0. Jordan, and V. K. Srivastava, *Bicchem. Bio-phys. Res. Commun.,* **20,** 61 1 (1965).
- (153) **S.** Hiai, *J. Mol. Biol.,* **11,** 672 (1965).
- (154) G. L. Eichhorn and P. Clark, *Prcc. Nar. Acad. Sci.* (i. **S., 53,** <sup>586</sup>  $(1965)$
- (155) D. Bach and I. **R.** Miller, *Biopolymers,* **5,** 161 (1967).
- (156) L. **E.** Minchenkova and V. **I.** Ivanov, *ibid.,* **5,** 615 (1967).
- (157) K. B. Yatsimirskii E. E. Kriss and T. **I.** Akhrameeva, *Dokl. Akad. Nauk SSSR,* **168,** 8'40 (1966); *ci Chem. Abstr.,* **65,** 7516f (1966).
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<sup>(147)</sup> H. Sigel, *Helc. Chim. Acta,* **50,** 582 (1967).

<sup>(148)</sup> H. Sigel, *Eur. J. Biochem.,* **3,** 530 (1968).

<sup>(149)</sup> *G.* L. Eichhorn and E. Tarien, *Biopolj,mers,* **5,** 273 (1967).

<sup>(150)</sup> H. Venner and Ch. Zimmer, *Biopolymers,* **4,** 321 (1966).

double helix stability due to binding of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  to the phosphate moieties, thereby reducing the electrostatic repulsion between the strands. However, as the  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  concentration increases relative to that of the DNA,  $T_m$  decreases owing to metal ion coordination with sites on the nucleic acid bases. A sharp decrease of  $T_m$  occurs<sup>150</sup> between 0.5-0.8 Cu<sup>2+</sup>/2DNA phosphorus and 1.5 Cu2+/2DNA phosphorus. Unlike the situation with  $Co^{2+}$ , Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, and Zn<sup>2+</sup>, rewinding of the double helix does not occur upon cooling but does occur upon the addition of electrolyte to the cooled solution. $55,153$  The interpretation of these observations is that  $Cu^{2+}$  binds more strongly to the nucleoside bases than do the aforementioned metal ions. Several studies<sup>153-155</sup> indicate that  $Cu^{2+}$  may be attached initially to the phosphates of native DNA, and that binding with bases occurs only upon heating although the interaction occurs readily at lower temperatures once the helix is disrupted. However, absorption spectral data comparing Cu<sup>2+</sup> reactivity toward apurinic acid, apyrimidic acid, and DNA indicate some binding of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  to the pyrimidine moieties of DNA at l-2°.158 Using the techniques of gel filtration, difference spectroscopy, viscosity, and ultracentrifugation, Bryan and Frieden<sup>151</sup> found evidence for Cu<sup>2+</sup> interaction with the bases of DNA at 26". The viscosity data and dissociation curves obtained by them suggest that two binding sites are involved. They found that identical maximum spectral changes were produced by heated and nonheated DNA although reaction times and required  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  concentrations were diffeient in each case. The observation that the viscosity of Cu(I1)-DNA solutions decreases before hyperchromism and sedimentation changes occur was taken to indicate the formation of an initial species,  $DNA-P-Cu^{2+}$ , which produces loosening in the coiling of the molecule prior to major changes in shape. The changes in shape are then attributed to the formation of a complex of the type **32.** 

![](_page_13_Picture_3.jpeg)

Bryan and Frieden<sup>151</sup> also calculated a binding constant that was best described by assuming that only the purine nucleotide units bind to  $Cu(II)$  in a 1:1 complex. This assumption is substantiated<sup>128</sup> by the observation that cupric ion catalysis of ascorbate oxidation is inhibited by DNA and its components in the order of decreasing effectiveness: purines  $>$  purine nucleotide = RNA  $-$  DNA  $>$  purine nucleoside  $>$  pyrimidine nucleotide. Evidence exists that  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  binds to guanine sites in DNA.<sup>150, 156, 159</sup> The basis for this suggestion is the stronger destabilization of the double helix for DNA rich in guanine and cytosine'56 compared to DNA rich in adenine and thymine as well as the fact<sup>150</sup> that the  $Cu^{2+}-$ guanosine complex is more stable than the  $Cu^{2+}-$ adenosine complex. In addition, modification of the  $G \cdot C$  base pairs by methylating the guanine  $N_7$  of DNA reduces the affinity of DNA for  $Cu^{2+}$  as is evidenced by a lessening of the destabilizing effect of  $Cu^{2+}$  on the melting of DNA.15g

Minchenkova and Ivanov<sup>156</sup> find that the addition of reducing agents, *i.e.,* ascorbic acid or sodium borohydride, to a DNA solution containing **Cu2+** causes changes in the DNA

absorption spectra. A new absorption band with a maximum of 280 nm is assigned to a DNA base– $Cu$ + complex. The melting temperature is raised and the circular dichroism curve is quite different for  $DNA-Cu^{+}$  as compared with that for DNA itself. The suggestion is made that the above effects are caused by proton transfer along the hydrogen bond from guanine to cytosine under the influence of the chelate formed between  $Cu^{+}$  and the N<sub>7</sub>,  $C_{6}O$  sites of guanine. Ropars and Viovy<sup>160</sup> in an electron paramagnetic resonance study of  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>-DNA interaction find that Cu<sup>2+</sup> binds to the phosphate$ groups as well as to guanine through the  $C_6OH$  and  $N_7$  groups. Tu and Friederich<sup>144</sup> in a conductometric and infrared study have confirmed that  $Cu^{2+}$  binds to the N<sub>7</sub> and  $C_6O$  groups of the guanine base of DNA.

Little work has been reported for  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>-RNA$  interaction.  $Cu<sup>2+</sup>$  has been found to participate in RNA depolymerization presumably by coordination with the phosphate groups<sup>117a</sup> and not with the  $2'$ -OH groups as originally postulated.<sup>71,117</sup>

### *8. Summary of Probable Transition Meta Coordination Sites*

The probable complexation sites of the first-row transition metal ions are given in Table IV.

### **E. OTHER METAL IONS**

#### *1. Zinc*

Stable complexes are formed between  $\mathbb{Z}^{n^{2+}}$  and the purine bases. In a proton nuclear magnetic resonance study<sup>136</sup> of  $ZnCl_2$ -purine interaction in DMSO all signals were found to be shifted downfield relative to those found in the absence of  $ZnCl<sub>2</sub>$ . Since the  $C<sub>8</sub>H$  chemical shift was greatest, it was concluded that  $N_7$  is the preferred  $Zn^{2+}$  binding site in purine. No evidence was found for  $Zn^{2+}$ -cytidine or -uridine complexing in aqueous solution in a Raman study.135 In the case of  $ZnCl_2$ -cytosine interaction in DMSO,<sup>136</sup> equal downfield chemical shifts were observed in the  $C_5H$  and  $C_6H$  peaks upon addition of the  $ZnCl_2$ , leading to the conclusion that  $N_3$  is the preferred binding site for  $Zn^{2+}$  in cytosine. It is not particularly surprising that there have been no reports of  $\mathbb{Z}n^{2+}$ -nucleoside interaction since **Cu2+** has been found to form only weak complexes with nucleosides and  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  would be expected to form still less stable complexes. One attempt<sup>139</sup> to detect these complexes by pH titration failed in the case of adenosine.

On the basis of successively larger formation constants in the order  $AMP < ADP < ATP$ , complexation with all available phosphates has been suggested.<sup>88,139</sup> The addition of ZnC12 to a solution of 0.5 *M* NaCl produces a broadening of the <sup>35</sup>Cl nmr line.<sup>161</sup> This broadening varies linearly with  $Zn^{2+}$  concentration and is pH independent to the point where  $Zn(OH)$ <sub>2</sub> begins to form. Ward and Happe<sup>161</sup> have used this nmr technique to study the  $Zn^{2+}-ADP$  interaction in the presence of Cl<sup>-</sup> and postulate formation of Zn<sub>2</sub>ADP, ZnADP, and  $Zn(ADP)_2$  in dilute aqueous solutions. No sites were postulated although by analogy with pyrophosphate (also studied)  $Zn^{2+}$  complexation with phosphate groups was suggested. Nmr<sup>83,84</sup> and infrared<sup>114, 162, 163</sup> spectroscopic

<sup>(158)</sup> Ye. T. Zakharenko and Yu. *Sh.* Moshovskii, *Biophysics (USSR), 11,* 1083 (1966).

<sup>(159)</sup> C. Zimmer and H. Venner, *Eur. J. Biochem.,* 15,40 (1970).

<sup>(160)</sup> C. Ropars and R. Viovy, *J. Chim. Phys., Physicochim. Biol.,* 62, 408 (1965).

<sup>(161)</sup> R. L. Ward and J. **A.** Happe, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.,*  28, 785 (1967).

<sup>(162)</sup> H. Brintzinger, *Helu. Chim. Acta,* 48, 47 (1965).

<sup>(163)</sup> H. Brintzinger, *J. Amer. Chem. SOC.,* 87, 1805 (1965).

![](_page_14_Picture_534.jpeg)

### *Table IV*  **Probable Complexation Sites of First-Row Transition Metal Ions"**

**<sup>a</sup>**Blank spaces indicate no data available. Text should be consulted for experimental conditions.

studies indicate that in ATP  $Zn^{2+}$  is bound to the  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ phosphate groups and to the adenine. A  $^{15}N$  nmr study<sup>83</sup> of the Zn<sup>2+</sup>-ATP complex (0.5-0.9 *M* in ATP) shows that  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ causes small downfield shifts in the  $N_9$  and amino nitrogen resonances as well as an upfield shift in the  $N_7$  signal. These shifts are consistent with the interaction of  $\mathbb{Z}n^{2+}$  with both the  $N_7$  and amino groups. The reaction of  $Zn^{2+}$  with both base and phosphate moieties of ATP is also confirmed by Raman spectroscopy<sup>56</sup> with the additional suggestion that in the presence of  $Zn^{2+}$  there is intramolecular phosphate-base interaction. The  $pK$  data presented in Table III for proton ionization from 3'-AMP, ADP, and ATP in the presence and absence of  $\mathbb{Z}n^{2+}$  support the binding of  $\mathbb{Z}n^{2+}$  to both phosphate and base moieties, at least in the cases of ADP and ATP.

Zinc ion can unwind and rewind DNA reversibly when a DNA solution is heated and cooled.<sup>55</sup> This phenomenon is explained by assuming that  $Zn^{2+}$  holds the two chains in proximity during the unwound stage by binding to the bases (less strongly than does  $Cu^{2+}$ ), and that  $Zn^{2+}$ , unlike  $Cu^{2+}$ , itself causes rewinding without the necessity of adding concentrated electrolyte as in the case of Cu2+.

The depolymerization rate of RNA by  $Zn^{2+}$  is approximately ten times as rapid as with Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, or Cu<sup>2+</sup>. The reaction is believed to involve coordination of  $\mathbb{Z}n^{2+}$  to the phosphate group as shown in 25,<sup>117a</sup> but not to the 2'-OH group as postulated earlier.<sup> $71,117$ </sup> The reasoning upon which this assignment is based is presented in section III.D.3.

In summary,  $Zn^{2+}$  binds both phosphate and base portions of nucleotides, polynucleotides, and DNA. Coordination to the 2'-OH group has also been reported. Reaction with purine bases appears to be at the  $N_7$  site with possible contribution from  $C_6NH_2$ , while pyrimidine bases appear to interact at  $N<sub>3</sub>$ .

#### *2. Silver*

Potentiometric and pH-Stat titrations have been used<sup>164</sup> to study the binding of  $Ag<sup>+</sup>$  by adenine and some substituted adenines. At pH  $\sim$ 7 insoluble compounds were obtained with 6-dimethylaminopurine, adenine, deoxyadenosine, and 9-

methyladenine; a soluble polymeric species was obtained with deoxy-AMP; and barely perceptible interaction was observed with 9-methyl-6-dimethylaminopurine. Strongest binding was found with adenine and 6-dimethylaminopurine, both of which have  $N_9H$  groups. Those substances which have  $N_9$ blocked but have amino hydrogens bind less strongly, but still very markedly, whereas binding by 9-methyl-6-dimethylaminopurine, with no N-H bonds, is still weaker and just barely perceptible under the conditions employed. It was concluded that with 6-dimethylaminopurine, a  $1:1$  compound is formed with the  $N<sub>9</sub>$  proton being displaced. With adenine, both  $N_9$  and amino hydrogens are displaced with 1.5-2.0 Ag<sup>+</sup> bound per adenine and 1.5 protons displaced. In the cases of 9-methyladenine and deoxyadenosine  $0.75$  H<sup>+</sup> is released per  $Ag<sup>+</sup>$  bound and the reaction

$$
3Ag^{+} + 2HB + ClO_{4}^{-} = [(Ag_{3}B_{2})ClO_{4}]_{\text{ppt}} + 2H^{+}
$$

is suggested, where BH is the neutral purine and H is an amino hydrogen. For dAMP a soluble polymeric species is formed according to the equation

$$
2Ag^{+} + BHP^{2-} = (1/n)[Ag_{2}BP]_{n}^{n-} + H^{+}
$$

where  $BHP^{2-}$  is dinegative dAMP. Although complexing is suggested with displacement of amino hydrogens (having a very high pK, *i.e.*,  $\sim$ 16) it is also possible that other ring nitrogens may be involved when one considers that protonation occurs on  $N_1$ , not  $C_6NH_2$  (see section II.B.1). However, reaction with ring nitrogens would not account for the observed proton release.

From the results of a potentiometric study of Ag<sup>+-</sup>adenosine interaction, Phillips and George<sup>165</sup> suggest a five-membered ring involving chelation with the  $N_7$  and  $C_6NH_2$  groups. Since Ag+ forms a significantly more stable complex with adenosine than does  $Cu^{2+}$ , it is proposed<sup>165</sup> that  $Ag^+$  binds primarily to the base in ATP. This conclusion has been confirmed for adenosine and extended to AMP, ADP, and ATP in a difference spectrophotometric study. **126** In a study166 involving pH and Ag+ titration and ultraviolet and infrared spectroscopy,

*<sup>(164)</sup>* K. Gillen, R. Jensen, and N. Davidson, *J. Amer. Chem. SOC., 86, 2792 (1964).* 

*<sup>(165)</sup>* R. Phillips and P. George, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* **162,** *73 (1968). (166)* **A. T. Tu** and J. A. Reinosa, *Biochemistry. 5, 3375 (1966).* 

guanosine, GMP, inosine, IMP, and theophylline were found to combine with  $Ag<sup>+</sup>$  in a 1:1 ratio whereas no reaction was observed with caffeine, uridine, and UMP. Since uridine did not complex with Ag<sup>+</sup>, the imidazole portion of the purine base was assumed to be involved in the case of the purine derivatives. The possibility of complexation at  $N_9$  was ruled out since this atom is connected to a ribose moiety in guanosine, GMP, inosine, and IMP, all of which reacted. The only difference between caffeine and theophylline is the group at  $N<sub>7</sub>$  (33). From these observations it was concluded that Ag<sup>+</sup> is

![](_page_15_Figure_3.jpeg)

chelated to the  $N_7$  and  $C_6O$  groups in guanosine, GMP, inosine, and IMP as shown in 34, where  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are the appropriate groups for guanosine, GMP, inosine, and IMP, and that  $Ag^+$  coordinates to theophylline only through  $N_7$ . An alternative structure 35 was also suggested<sup>166</sup> in which the Ag+ ions lie in a colinear arragnement which is in better accord with known stereochemical requirements of Ag+

![](_page_15_Figure_5.jpeg)

Complexing of Ag+ with cytidine, but not uridine, has been reported in a Raman spectral study. **<sup>35</sup>**

Silver ion is reported to form at least three different (types I, II, and III) complexes with  $DNA^{167-169}$  and to be bound more tightly by denatured than by native DNA.167 **In** combined potentiometric and spectrophotometric studies,<sup>167,169</sup> the type I complex formed when the Ag(bound)/DNA base ratio was 0 to **0.2** and appeared to involve little or no proton release. Type I binding is more important for  $(G + C)$ -rich DNA than for  $(G + C)$ -poor DNA. The Ag<sup>+</sup>-DNA complexes have about the same intrinsic viscosity as the uncomplexed DNA, indicating that the double helix is not denatured. Jensen and Davidson<sup>167</sup> suggest that in type I binding  $Ag^+$  is chelated between the  $N_7$  and  $C_6O$  groups of guanosine. However, they consider it more likely that a  $\pi$ complex is formed in which  $Ag^+$  is sandwiched between two aromatic rings of the same strand or between the  $\pi$  electrons of an amino group of guanosine and a  $\pi$ -electron system on

the next base up along the strand. A similar structure in which Ag+ is sandwiched between two base pairs of DNA, one of which must be a  $G \cdot C$  pair, has also been proposed for the type I complex. 168

Type I1 binding occurs when the Ag/DNA base ratio is between **0.2** and 0.5 and is accompanied by a different spectrum, proton release, and somewhat weaker binding. **167-169**  It is proposed that type I1 binding occurs with bases unaffected by type I binding and that it involves the conversion of an  $N-H \cdots N$  hydrogen bond of a complementary base pair to an N-Ag-N bond as in **36** and **37.16'** Since the sum of type I

![](_page_15_Figure_13.jpeg)

and type I1 binding saturates at one Ag+ per base pair, it is assumed that a nucleotide involved in type I binding cannot fully participate in type I1 binding. Evidence has been reported<sup>168</sup> that the formation of the type II complex is accompanied by a change of structure and the postulate made that Ag+ forms linear complexes between the bases of each strand, partially replacing bonds and producing a new helical structure which is insensitive to temperature.

Type I11 and possibly higher complexes are formed at  $pH < 7$  and Ag<sup>+</sup>(bound)/DNA ratios  $> 0.5$ .<sup>167</sup> A precipitate is formed in this region and the type I11 complex has not been studied further.

The evidence to date supports the belief that  $Ag<sup>+</sup>$  binds exclusively or nearly so to the base portion of DNA. In sedimentation coefficient studies,<sup>168</sup>  $Ag<sup>+</sup>$  was found to react with  $poly(A)$ , but not with  $poly(U)$ . The nonreactivity toward poly(U) together with ultraviolet spectral and potentiometric results<sup>168</sup> are taken as evidence that the phosphate groups are not the binding sites in these polynucleotides.

Studies<sup>168, 170</sup> with tobacco mosaic virus RNA show Ag<sup>+</sup> to increase the resistance of TMV-RNA to both temperature and ribonuclease, Slightly less than 1 mol of either Ag+ or  $Hg^{2+}$  was found to bind independently.<sup>121</sup> Competition experiments with  $Ag^+$  and  $Hg^{2+}$  show 0.5 mol of each to bind on specific independent sites, while an additional 0.5 mol is shared competitively with  $Hg^{2+}$  having the greater affinity. Both metals were assumed to bind bases only, and  $Fe<sup>3+</sup>$ , In<sup>3+</sup>, and  $Al^{3+}$  displaced Hg<sup>2+</sup> and particularly Ag<sup>+</sup> from these shared sites.

<sup>(167)</sup> R. H. Jensen and N. Davidson, *Biopolymers,* **4,** 17 (1966).

<sup>(168)</sup> M. Daune, C. **A.** Dekker, and H. K. Schachman, *ibid.,* **4, 51**   $(1966)$ .

<sup>(169)</sup> T. Yamane and N. Davidson, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* **55,** 609 (1962).

<sup>(170)</sup> B. Singer, and H. Fraenkel-Conrat, *Biochemistry,* **1,** *852* (1962).

Silver(1) ion appears to bind exclusively to the bases of the nucleotides, polynucleotides, and DNA studied. No interactions with the phosphate or ribose moieties have been reported.

#### *3. Cadmium*

No change is observed in the Raman spectra of aqueous solutions of either cytidine or uridine upon addition of CdCl<sub>2</sub>.<sup>135</sup>

Melting curves for DNA in the presence of  $Cd^{2+}$  are similar to those for  $Cu^{2+}.55,95$  The interpretation placed on these curves is that  $Cd^{2+}$  binds more strongly than  $Zn^{2+}$ , but less strongly than  $Cu^{2+}$  to the DNA bases.<sup>55</sup> This interpretation is based on the following argument. The  $Cd^{2+}-DNA$  bond is sufficiently strong to remain intact on cooling without regeneration of the double helix as occurs with  $Zn^{2+}$ . Furthermore, the addition of electrolyte to a cooled DNA solution renatures DNA immediately<sup>55</sup> in the presence of  $Cd^{2+}$  whereas the reaction in  $Cu^{2+}$  solution takes 5 hr to go to completion.<sup>154</sup> This difference in renaturation times is taken<sup>55</sup> as evidence that the Cu<sup>2+</sup>-DNA base bond is stronger than the Cd<sup>2+</sup>-DNA base bond. These relative binding strengths are confirmed by equilibrium constant studies. **15\*** 

Binding of  $Cd^{2+}$  to the phosphate moieties of ribonucleotides would probably be expected, but no data have been reported.

#### *4. Pla tin um*

Changes in absorption spectra with time are observed<sup>171</sup> for the  $K_2PtCl_4$ -adenine and  $K_2PtCl_4$ -hypoxanthine systems, but not for the  $K_2PtCl_4$  systems containing guanine, thymine, or cytosine. The  $C_6NH_2$  group of adenine was eliminated as a possible complexation site since hypoxanthine and adenine showed similar behavior. Elemental analysis indicated the formation of a 1 : 1 complex with adenine. Electron microscopy showed that the attachment of  $K_2PtCl_4$  occurred nonuniformly along the thread of the DNA molecule presumably because of selectivity of the reaction with individual bases. Reduction of  $PtCl<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>$  by DNA was also observed, but whether this reduction was related to complexing of adenine with  $PtCl<sub>4</sub>$ <sup>2-</sup> was not clear.

#### *5. Lead*

An equilibrium constant study<sup>137</sup> of  $Pb^{2+}$ -base interactions shows  $Pb^{2+}-$ guanosine and  $Pb^{2+}-$ cytosine complexes to have formation constants approximately an order of magnitude greater than those of the corresponding Pb2+-adenosine complexes. The DNA double helix is destabilized by  $Pb^{2+}$  on heating<sup>95</sup> in a manner similar to that seen in the case of  $Cd^{2+}$ (and also  $Cu^{2+}$  but to a lesser extent). Presumably, the Pb<sup>2+</sup> coordinates with the nucleotide bases in DNA. No data are available on Pb<sup>2+</sup> interaction with the phosphate moieties of the ribonucleotides or DNA.

### *6. Mercury*

Eichhorn and Clark<sup>172</sup> conclude from an ultraviolet spectral study that at  $pH 9 HgCl<sub>2</sub>(aq)$  reacts with the amino group in cytidine since no reaction occurs between  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  and cytidine if the amino group is blocked by reaction with formaldehyde. $99$ Simpson<sup>173</sup> also finds, based on an ultraviolet spectra study, that at  $pH$  10-11 CH<sub>3</sub>HgOH combines with the amino group of cytidine while at  $pH$  2-6  $N_3$  is the site of mercuration with some contribution from the amino group. A Raman spectra study<sup>135</sup> shows HgCl<sub>2</sub> to bind cytidine at  $N_3$  with release of 2Cl<sup>-</sup>. Although in contradiction to the conclusions of Eichhorn and Clark,  $172$ association at  $N_3$  appears most likely. In an nmr study of  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>-cytidine association in DMSO, HgCl<sub>2</sub> has been shown$ to bind only to the  $N_3$  group.<sup>174</sup> The nmr spectra show the amino signals to be due to two protons in the amino group in the presence of  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  and thus confirm that no imino group is formed.

A 1:1 complex between thymidine and  $Hg^{2+}$  has been postulated<sup>175</sup> with complexation only at  $N_3$ . The  $N_3$  position has also been suggested<sup>173</sup> as the site of complexation in uridine. In DMSO  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  does not react with uridine.<sup>174</sup>

Yamane and Davidson<sup>175</sup> report that the complex  $HgA_2^{2+}$ forms in excess adenosine, while in excess  $Hg^{2+}$ ,  $HgA^{+}$  is formed with the loss of a proton. The latter reaction is unexpected and no positive proof for the structure is given. Eichhorn and Clark<sup>172</sup> in an ultraviolet spectra study found  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  to react with adenosine in the absence, but not in the presence, of formaldehyde. Since formaldehyde is known<sup>10,99,176</sup> to react with the imino groups of the purine and pyrimidine nucleosides, they conclude that the  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  binds the aminos group in adenosine. However, this conclusion is made less certain by the finding<sup>10, 177</sup> that the acid imino groups of purine, adenine, thymine, and uracil also react with formaldehyde. Simpson<sup>173</sup> in an ultraviolet spectral study found that  $CH<sub>3</sub>Hg<sup>+</sup>$  interacts with both the N<sub>1</sub> and amino groups of adenosine with the predominant reaction being at the  $N_1$ position. In an nmr study of  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$ -adenosine interaction in dimethyl sulfoxide, Kan and Li<sup>174</sup> report binding to the  $N_7$  as well as to the amino and  $N_1$  positions.

There is agreement<sup>172, 173, 175</sup> that mercury(II) reacts with guanosine at the  $N_1$  position displacing a proton. Simpson<sup>173</sup> also suggests that guanosine is complexed at the  $N_7$  and  $C_2NH_2$  positions by  $CH_3Hg^+$  and at the N<sub>7</sub> position by Hg(OH)<sub>2</sub> and that inosine is complexed at both the  $N_1$  and  $N_7$ positions by CH3HgOH.

Mercury(I1) chloride combines reversibly with DNA with a large increase in molecular weight as determined by light scattering.<sup>178</sup> The increase in molecular weight was attributed to partial aggregation of DNA molecules. Addition of electrolyte completely reversed the complexation reaction. Examination<sup>179</sup> of the ultraviolet spectra of complexed and uncomplexed DNA led to the postulation that  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  reacts primarily with the bases although some interaction with the phosphate groups was not ruled out. It was further suggested that the  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  coordinates with the conjugated double bond systems in guanine, cytosine, and thymine or possibly with the  $NH<sub>2</sub>$ groups of adenine, guanine, and cytosine. The latter suggestion must be considered tentative in view of the findings that

<sup>(171)</sup> B. P. Ulanov L. F. Malysheva, and **Yu.** Sh. Moshkovskii, *Biophysics (USSR),* **i2,** 371 (1967).

<sup>(172)</sup> G. L. Eichhorn and **P.** Clark, *J. Amer. Chem.* Soc., 85, 4020 (1963).

<sup>(173)</sup> **R.** B. Simpson, *ibid.,* 86, 2059 (1964).

<sup>(174)</sup> L. **S.** Kan and N. *C.* Li, *ibid.,* 92, 4823 (1970).

<sup>(175)</sup> **T.** Yamane and N. Davidson, *ibid.,* 83, 2599 (1961).

<sup>(176)</sup> M. Ya. Fel'dman, *Biochemistry (USSR),* 25, 432 (1960).

<sup>(177)</sup> *S.* Lewin and M. **A.** Barnes, *J. Chem. SOC. E,* 478 (1966).

<sup>(178)</sup> **S.** Katz, *J. Amer. Chem.* Soc., 74, 2238 (1952).

<sup>(179)</sup> C. A. Thomas, *ibid.,* 76, 6032 (1954).

 $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  does not react with the NH<sub>2</sub> group in cytidine<sup>174</sup> and that other bivalent metal ions (i.e., Cu<sup>2+</sup>) do not react with the amino groups of adenine, guanine, or cytosine nucleotides.  $24,47$ 

Yamane and Davidson<sup>175</sup> report a decrease in the intrinsic viscosity and a spectral shift when Hg(I1) reacts with DNA. The reaction was found to be reversible; *i.e.,* addition of substances which complex Hg(I1) results in the regeneration of DNA. Also, identical spectral shifts and identical viscosity changes are produced if  $Hg(C1O_4)_2$  rather than  $HgCl_2$  is used as the source of Hg(II), leading to the conclusion that  $Hg^{2+}$  is the complexing form of Hg(I1). In addition, no evidence was found for Hg<sup>2+</sup>-phosphate interaction. Addition of Hg<sup>2+</sup> results in one type of complex with a characteristic spectrum up to a ratio of one Hg(I1) to two bases for the natural DNA's studied (calf thymus, *E. coli,* and *M. lysodeikticus)*  irrespective of the  $(G + C):(A + T)$  ratio in the DNA. With excess Hg(II), a second, higher complex forms. Katz<sup>180, 181</sup> later proposed a structure for the Hg2+-DNA complex in which it was assumed that each  $Hg^{2+}$  is attached to purine or pyrimidine bases on two polynucleotide chains. This structure was later confirmed by a pH titration procedure.<sup>172</sup> Recent ultracentrifugation<sup>182</sup> and spectrophotometric<sup>183</sup> studies of CH3HgOH-DNA interaction support the postulation that  $CH<sub>3</sub>Hg<sup>+</sup>$  reacts with the imino nitrogens of thymine (N<sub>3</sub>) and guanine  $(N_1)$  in DNA. The reaction with native DNA causes irreversible denaturation probably because  $CH<sub>3</sub>Hg<sup>+</sup>$  cannot bind two complementary strands of DNA in a chelation process as  $Hg^{2+}$  can.

Marked changes in the ultraviolet absorption spectra of soluble, ribosomal, and tobacco mosaic virus RNA's upon addition of  $HgCl<sub>2</sub>$  led to the conclusion that  $Hg(II)$  interacts with RNA.<sup>184</sup> In a study of the enzymatic degradation of RNA in the presence of  $Mg^{2+}$ , Ag<sup>+</sup>, and Hg<sup>2+</sup> (both independently and in various combinations), Singer and Fraenkel-Conrat'7O conclude that the binding affinities and sites for these metal ions are comparatively independent of one another.

In summary,  $Hg(II)$ , like  $Ag^+$ , binds to the bases of nucleosides, polynucleotides, DNA, and RNA with no evidence for  $Hg^{2+}$ -phosphate interaction.

#### **7.** *Lanthanide Metal Ions*

In a study of the degradation of polyribonucleotides by lanthanide ions, Eichhorn and Butzow<sup>185</sup> found a cleavage of the polynucleotide chains of  $poly(A)$ ,  $poly(C)$ ,  $poly(U)$ , and poly(1) to occur at the 5'-phosphate linkages. In a similar study involving bivalent transition metal ions, Butzow and Eichhorn<sup>117</sup> report rates of degradation with  $\mathbb{Z}n^{2+}$  to be about the same as those with  $La^{3+}$ , but about ten times faster than those with Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, and Cu<sup>2+</sup>. These studies<sup>117, 185</sup> were carried out at 64° where reaction occurred in several hours compared to several days at 37°. 186

RNA is depolymerized<sup>71,185</sup> by La<sup>3+</sup>, Ce<sup>3+</sup>, and Lu<sup>3+</sup>. The fact that DNA does not depolymerize<sup>185, 186</sup> in the presence of La<sup>3+</sup> and Ce<sup>3+</sup> implicates the participation of the 2'-OH group

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- (186) E. Bamann, H. Trapmann, and F. Fischler, *Biochem. Z.,* **326,** 89 ( 1954).

in the process probably through an intermediate of the type proposed in **25.** 

No evidence has been presented that the trivalent lanthanide metal ions bind polynucleotides other than through the phosphate linkages.

#### *8. Uranium*

Potentiometric titrations of mixtures of  $UO<sub>2</sub>(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>$  with H<sub>2</sub>ATP<sup>2-</sup>, HADP<sup>-</sup>, AMP, adenosine, and glycerol phosphate led to the conclusion<sup>187</sup> that in adenosine nucleotides  $UO_2^{2+}$ binds an O atom of the  $\alpha$ -phosphate group, the ribose oxygen, and the  $N_3$  atom of the adenine ring. Uranyl ion was found to interact with adenosine only when the adenosine and phosphate groups are part of the same molecule and when these groups are in a geometrical arrangement favorable for chelation with the  $UO_2^{2+}$ . Furthermore,  $UO_2^{2+}$  does not bind to the adenine group of AMP at high pD values (7.5-1 **1.4).** 188, **la9**  Nuclear magnetic resonance data, both  ${}^{1}H$  and  ${}^{31}P$ , indicate that in equimolar mixtures of uranyl nitrate and AMP a chelate with  $1:1$  stoichiometry is exclusively present above pD 10.9. In this sandwich-type chelate one uranyl group is chelated by the 2' and 3' ribose oxygen atoms of one 5'-AMP molecule and by a phosphate oxygen and 3'-oxygen of a second AMP molecule, and a second uranyl group is chelated by the 2'- and 3'-oxygens of the second AMP molecule and a phosphate oxygen and 3'-oxygen of the first AMP according to structure **38.** 

![](_page_17_Figure_20.jpeg)

U represents  $UO_2^{2+}$ ion perpendicular to the plane of the paper

Below pD 10.9 this chelate disproportionates to uncomplexed AMP, sandwich-type chelates (two forms) with 2 : 1  $(UO<sub>2</sub><sup>2+</sup>:AMP)$  stoichiometry and nonsandwich-type complexes. The extent of disproportionation increases with decrease in pH, probably because of competition between  $UO_2^{2+}$  and H<sup>+</sup> for the ribose hydroxyl oxygen sites.

The absorption spectra of the  $UO_2^{2+}$ -DNA system shows that at pH 3.5 one  $UO_2^{2+}$  is bound for every two phosphate groups. This finding is consistent with the electrostatic interaction of  $UO_2^{2+}$  with the phosphate groups of DNA. Lowering the solution pH to 2.3 or heating the DNA in the presence of formaldehyde results in a reduction of the stoichiometric ratio to one  $UO_2^{2+}$  per three phosphate groups.

- (188) R. P. Agarwal and **I.** Feldman, *ibid.,* **90,** 6635 (1968).
- (189) I. Feldman and K. **E.** Rich, *ibid.,* **92,** 4559 (1970).

<sup>(180)</sup> **S.** Katz, *Nature,* **194,** 569 (1962).

**<sup>(181)</sup> S.** Katz, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta,* **68,** 240 (1963).

<sup>(182)</sup> D. W. Gruenwedel and N. Davidson, *Biopolymers,* **5,** 847 (1967).

<sup>(187)</sup> I. Feldman, **J.** Jones, and R. Cross, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* **89,** 49 (1967).

<sup>(190)</sup> C. R. Zobel and M. Beer, *J. Biophys. Biochem. Cytol.,* 10, 335 (1961).

In conclusion, under favorable conditions  $UO_2^{2+}$  appears to complex with base, phosphate, and ribose moieties of nucleotides.

#### *9. Boron*

The reaction of boric acid with D-ribose, inosine, and uridine has been shown to involve the ribose OH groups.<sup>191</sup>

#### F. SUMMARY OF PROBABLE METAL COORDINATION SITES

The metal ions which have been studied have been arranged in Table V according to their relative affinities for the phosphate,

#### *Table V*

Summary *of* Metal Ion Coordination Sites with the Phosphate, Base, and Ribose Moieties of Nucleotides and Nucleic Acids

![](_page_18_Picture_725.jpeg)

<sup>*a*</sup> Evidence also for interaction of  $UO_2^{2+}$  with base. *b* Increasing affinity for base relative to phosphate from left to right. Order taken from ref 55 except Pb2+ which is from ref 95. Fez+ and **Fe3+** also fit in this group, but their positions are not known.

ribose, and base moieties of nucleotides and nucleic acids. This order does not necessarily parallel the thermodynamic stabilities of the complexes which are a measure of the overall reaction of the metal with the various complexation sites. Of the remaining metals studied, available evidence indicates that  $Pt^{IV}$  is primarily a base binder, and  $Cr^{3+}$  is primarily a phosphate binder; however, additional experimental data are desirable in these cases.

#### *IV. Thermodynamic Data*

The thermodynamic quantities (log *K*,  $\Delta H$ ,  $\Delta S$ , and  $\Delta C_p$ ) for the interaction of protons and metal ions with the nucleic acids and their components together with the methods and conditions used in their determination are given in Table VI.

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- (193) A. Albert and D. J. Brown, *J. Chem. Sac.,* 2060 (1954).
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- (196) J. J. Christensen, J. H. Rytting, and R. M. Izatt, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* 88, 5105 (1966).
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- (198) J. Schubert. *ibid..* 76, 3442 (1954).
- (199) E. Doody, E. R. Tucci, R. Scruggs, and N. C. Li, *J. Inorg. Nucl. Chem..* 28. 833 (1966).
- (200) **R.** Phillips, P. Eisenberg, P. George, and R. J. Rutman, *J. Biol. Chem.*, 240, 4393 (1965).
- (201) H. Sigel and H. Brintzinger, *Hela. Chim. Acta,* 47, 1701 (1964). (202) H. Sigel, K. Becker, and D. B. McCormick, *Biochim. Biophys. Acta*, 148, 655 (1967).

In the cases of adenosine and the adenosine nucleotides only those values which have appeared since or were not included in the review by Phillips' are given.

The thermodynamic data in Table VI are arranged according to the following system. The bases are listed alphabetically and each is followed by its nucleoside; nucleoside mono-, di-, tri-, and tetraphosphate ; and polynucleotide derivatives in that order. Deoxy, other sugar derivatives, and other ligands *(e.g.,* MHL) in that order follow each parent nucleoside or nucleotide ionization or metal complexation step. Mixed polynucleotides are listed alphabetically;  $e.g., poly(A + G)$  is found under the main heading of adenine. The ligands are listed in order of increasing degree of protonation with metal complexation data following proton association data for each ligand. The metal ion order is that given in ref 64. Consecutive reactions are given first, followed by overall and unspecified reactions in that order. Data at specific temperatures are listed first, in order of increasing temperature, followed by data at unspecified temperatures and those valid over a temperature range. Data are listed in order of increasing ionic strength or supporting electrolyte concentration followed by data at unspecified ionic strengths. The  $\log K$  and  $\Delta H$  values are listed in order according to the method used in their determination. Log *K:* calorimetric, potentiometric, spectrophotometric, other.  $\Delta H$ : calorimetric, temperature variation. Data valid in aqueous solution are given first followed by those determined in other solvents arranged alphabetically according to the solvent.

The most numerous thermodynamic data for the systems included in Table VI are equilibrium constants. Relatively few  $\Delta H$  and  $\Delta S$  and very few  $\Delta C_p$  values have been reported. Several experimental techniques have been used to measure equilibrium constants, with the most popular being that of

- (203) J. Stockx and L. Vandendriessche, *ibid.,* 72, 137 (1963).
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- (207) J. Botts, A. Chashin, and H. L. Young, *Biochemistry,* 4, 1788 (1965).
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- (225) L. F. Cavalieri and A. L. Stone, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.,* **77,** 6499 (1955).
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<sup>(191)</sup> **U.** Weser, *2. Naturforsch. B,* 22, 457 (1967).

<sup>(223)</sup> E. Hurlen, *S.* G. Laland, R. A. **Cox,** and **A.** R. Peacocke, *Acta Chem. Scand.,* 10, 793 (1956).

 $\mathbf{H}^+$ 

pH titration

25

![](_page_19_Picture_955.jpeg)

# Log *K*,  $\Delta H^{\circ}$ ,  $\Delta S$ , and  $\Delta C_p^{\circ}$  Values for the Interaction of  $H^+$  and  $M^{n+}$  with DNA, **RNA**, and Their Components (Listed Alphabetically)<sup>2</sup>

*Table VI* 

 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 

![](_page_20_Picture_714.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_1015.jpeg)

### **Metal Ion Interaction with RNA and DNA** Chemical Reviews, 1971, Vol. 71, No. 5 **461**

![](_page_22_Picture_1094.jpeg)

 $\langle \hat{u} \rangle$ 

![](_page_23_Picture_861.jpeg)

dioxane

### **Metal Ion Interaction with RNA and DNA Chemical Reviews, 1971,** Vol. **71,** No. **5 463**

![](_page_24_Picture_633.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_882.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_913.jpeg)

![](_page_26_Picture_914.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Picture_1005.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Picture_857.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_787.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_983.jpeg)

![](_page_31_Picture_566.jpeg)

![](_page_32_Picture_683.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_575.jpeg)

### **Metal Ion Interaction with RNA and DNA** Chemical Reviews, 1971, Vol. 71, No. 5 473

![](_page_34_Picture_735.jpeg)

**H+** 

177

![](_page_35_Picture_564.jpeg)

pH statting  $40$  0.0051 9.55

### **Metal Ion Interaction with RNA and DNA** Chemical **Reviews, 1971,** Vol. **71,** No. **5 475**

![](_page_36_Picture_796.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Picture_813.jpeg)

J.

![](_page_38_Picture_510.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_477.jpeg)

### **Metal Ion Interaction with RNA and DNA** Chemical **Reviews, 1971,** Vol. **71,** No. **5 479**

![](_page_40_Picture_604.jpeg)

Table VI (Continued)										
Metal	Method	pН	Temp, °C	Supporting electrolyte/solvent	$\mu$	Log K	$\Delta H^{\circ}$ kcal/mol	$\Delta S^{\circ}$ cal/(deg mol	$\Delta C_{\rm p}^{\rm o}$ , cal/(deg mol)	Ref
				$RNA-Cytosine(L)$						
$H^+$	Spectrophotometry, pH titration		25	0.1 M Na <sub>3</sub> PO <sub>4</sub>		4.7				215
				$RNA$ (Nuclear) <sup>d</sup>						
$Co2+$	Difference spectrophotometry	6.0	-25			4.6				126

*<sup>5</sup>*The temperature listed is that at which the log *K* and/or *AH* values are valid. The *AS'* values are valid at the stated temperatures unless otherwise indicated. When a temperature interval is given, the indicated log  $K$ ,  $\Delta H^{\circ}$ , or  $\Delta C_p^{\circ}$  value is valid over the range. In each case the ligand is indicated by the symbol L, and **L"-** is taken to be the ionized species for removal of all protons for which data are available. Other ionizable protons may be present, but this fact is not indicated unless data are given. Therefore, for each ligand the species to which L<sup>n-</sup> refers must be known before the protonated species,  $H_m L^{+m-n}$ , can be identified. Proton binding sites are indicated in each case. For assignment of the M<sup>n+</sup> binding sites, see Tables IV and V and the text.<sup>5</sup> Temperature not specified. Additional data compiled by Phillips.<sup>1</sup> A Reaction not specified. Reaction stoichiometry 1:1 in ref 120 and ref 126; 1:2  $UO_2^2$  +: P in ref 190.  $\cdot$  Log K value reported in ref 197, 2.47, appears to be a typographical error. I Log K value reported in ref 197 the  $\Delta G^{\circ}$  and  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  values reported in ref 53. The  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  value reported in ref 53, -3.6 kcal/mol, appears to be in error.

making pH titrations using glass and calomel electrodes. However, the important question has been raised concerning whether the metal ion binds to the same base site from which the proton was ionized in certain of these systems,  $viz.$ ,  $M^{n+}$ nucleoside<sup>138, 142</sup> and  $M^{n+}-$ nucleotide.<sup>142</sup> This question is of obvious importance in studies which attempt to relate hydrogen ion concentrations to metal stability constants-and deserves further attention. The equilibrium constant determinations have been made under a variety of temperature, ionic strength, and solvent conditions, making comparisons difficult. The variations in ionic strength are large ranging from  $\mu = 0$  to >1. There are probably two primary reasons for reporting equilibrium constants at ionic strengths other than 0. First, the computational procedure is simplified since activity coefficient corrections are usually not made, and second it is sometimes desired to make the measurement under conditions of  $\mu$  more nearly approximating those found in living systems. In some cases the difference between equilibrium constants obtained at low *(<0.05)* and zero ionic strength is considered negligible and no correction is made. Some investigators have defined a standard state as some specific medium (e.g., 0.100 *M* (KNO<sub>3</sub>)).<sup>205</sup> In these cases one must realize that the thermodynamic values are valid only at the specific experimental conditions and are not necessarily comparable with data obtained under different conditions. It is also well to realize that often the substance used as the added electrolyte interacts to a significant extent with the ligand or metal being studied so that one has competing reactions taking place which can affect the values obtained. For example,  $\log K$ values obtained in one study<sup>148</sup> at  $\mu = 0$  and 0.1 (NaClO<sub>4</sub>) differed by as much as  $0.6 \log K$  unit using the same techniques for determining the pK values of ITP, GTP, UTP, and TTP. Since  $Na<sup>+</sup>$  and  $K<sup>+</sup>$  which are extensively used as supporting electrolytes have been shown to interact significantly with nu- ~leotides,6~~67~ **207, 20\*,210, \*27** particular care should be exercised in these cases.

**A** further complication is encountered in the determination of  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values by calorimetric procedures where use of added electrolyte can result in errors which are often undetected. The hydration sphere of the reacting metal ion is changed in the presence of added electrolyte to contain some (usually unknown) number of coordinated anions. Heat effects involved in the replacement of these anions by the coordinating ligand could be significantly different from those involved in replacing water molecules. Thus, in most cases neither the log *K* nor  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  value is known for the reaction of the added electrolyte, leaving the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values for formation of the metal complex in error by some unknown amount.

The  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values in Table VI have often been calculated from the variation of the equilibrium constant with temperature. This method of calculating  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values involves a differentiation process and results in a certain loss in accuracy. This loss in accuracy of the calculated  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values can be minimized if the experimental work is very carefully done at many temperatures in the temperature range studied. Therefore, one should be careful not to attach undue significance to the very small standard deviations often reported for  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values calculated from temperature-dependent work. The errors propagated through differentiation in calculating  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values from equilibrium constant data as a function of temperature have been discussed.<sup>228</sup> In general, the direct methods of calorimetry are preferable to temperature-dependent methods for the determination of  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values.

Enthalpy change,  $\Delta S^{\circ}$ , and  $\Delta C_p^{\circ}$  values when known in addition to equilibrium constants provide additional information regarding sites of binding and the interactions of the metal ion or proton with the ligand and the effect of the solvent on these interactions. The magnitudes of the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values are indicative of (a) the types of binding sites *(i.e.,* ether, carboxyl, amino, sulfhydryl, etc. ; *e.g.,* see discussion of proton ionization from adenine and cytosine) and (b) the number of binding sites. The magnitudes of the  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  values are indicative of solvent-solute interactions and supply information about relative degrees of hydration of the metal ion, ligand, and complex, the loss of degrees of freedom of the ligand when complexed with the metal ion, and the charge types involved in the reaction. In addition, comparison of the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  and  $\Delta S^{\circ}$  values for systems gives rise to analogies among these systems and helps to point out similarities and differences among such systems.

**<sup>(227)</sup>** N. C. Melchior, *J. Biol. Chem.,* **208, 615** (1954).

**<sup>(228)</sup>** E. **J.** King, "Acid-Base Equilibria," Macmillan, New **York,**  N. *Y.,* 1965, **pp** 192-196.

Determination of the  $\Delta H^{\circ}$  values as a function of temperature allows  $\Delta C_p$ <sup>o</sup> values to be calculated. These data are available only for proton ionization from the purines, pyrimidines, and nucleosides. The  $\Delta C_{p}^{\circ}$  values reflect changes in the solvent due to conformational changes of the ligands upon proton or metal complexation. These  $\Delta C_{p}^{\circ}$  data could be very informative, and it is desirable that more work be done in determining values particularly by calorimetric procedures. The need for such data has been recognized.<sup>229</sup>

(229) L. *G.* Bunville, E. P. Geiduschek, M. **A.** Rawitscher, and J. M. Sturtevant, *Biopolymers,* **3,** 213 (1965).

One of the most useful pieces of information concerning metal binding would be to have reliable log *K* values, particularly for the nucleosides, nucleotides, and polynucleotides, so that trends in the binding could be directly observed. Unfortunately, no systematic study has been made for any systems more complicated than the nucleotides, and available data are limited primarily to the adenine nucleotides.

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